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LD1609130388 [Editorial Report]

Iraq

Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah "categorically denied" that the Iraqi Armed Forces have used chemical weapons (CW) in their operations to purge northern Iraq from "terrorist traitors," INA reported. Speaking at a press conference in Baghdad, Khayrallah added that over 20,000 Kurds have now returned to Iraq in accordance with the amnesty and he urged journalists to go and meet them.

According to WAKH, Khayrallah also contended that Iraq did not use CW because Iraqi forces would themselves have been exposed to contamination in view of the "depth of the area of operations." While Khayrallah did not deny that Iraq possesses CW, he said there is a difference between possessing such weapons and using them, affirming that the "general rule" is not to use CW, and "Iraq goes by this rule."

He acknowledged that the U.S. boycott will "do some harm," but said it will not obstruct Iraq's development. On the future of the Kurds, Khayrallah confirmed that "resettlement" measures are underway in accordance with a decision by the Iraqi leadership.

In Strasbourg, the European Parliament issued a statement accusing Iraq of the "extermination" of thousands of Kurds in attacks that were not far from "genocide," AFP reported. The statement called on all EEC members to suspend arms deliveries to Iraq and prevent the export of equipment that could be used for CW production.

Iran

The Geneva talks were slow and complicated but they have not reached a deadlock or an impasse, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati asserted in a roundtable discussion broadcast by Tehran television. He contended that "tangible progress" was made, adding that "the trend is a forward one."

Nevertheless, Velayati stressed Iran will "not move an inch" in its determination to adhere to the 1975 agreement demarcating the border in the Shatt al-'Arab.

In another development, the Navy commander announced that Iran will begin minesweeping operations in international waters of the Gulf 22 September and stressed Iran will welcome the cooperation of other Gulf states in this task, according to Tehran radio.

On the future of the IRGC, President 'Ali Khamene'i told IRGC commanders that their personnel must remain on military alert, fully observe discipline, and avoid involvement in "petty politics," IRNA reported. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi also spoke at the meeting, attended by "thousands" of IRGC commanders, stressing that the IRGC is an "indivisible part of the Islamic Revolution."

In Paris, Iranian Kurdish opposition leader 'Abd al-Rahman Qassemlu told journalists that Iran is mobilizing troops and IRGC personnel for an offensive against Iranian Kurds, AFP reported.

Hostages in Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement expressing willingness to release its four hostages if the United States clearly adopts a "positive attitude" on Palestinian rights "within a week," AFP reported. The kidnappers' message, delivered to a Beirut news agency, was accompanied by color photographs of U.S. hostages Jesse Turner and Alan Steen.

Israel

Further on Hungary Talks—In remarks broadcast by IDF radio following his return from Budapest, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said his dialogue with Hungarian officials was "very open" and praised the Hungarian premier's "sympathetic and friendly" attitude as well as his "outstanding personality."

Commenting on Shamir's "non-official" talks in Budapest, a Hungarian official cited by MTI reaffirmed his country's support for Palestinian self-determination but said the Hungarians believe that listening to the Israeli position is "not useless even if there is an obvious difference to ours."

Hungarian leaders told Shamir of their interest in expanding bilateral economic relations, in which "turnover lags far behind opportunities," the official added.

Territories—Eight more Arabs were injured by IDF fire during clashes in Nabulus and the Gaza Strip 15 September, Jerusalem radio reported.

PLO Affairs

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's recent statements in Strasbourg drew a hostile reception from Palestinian factions based in Syria. Damascus radio carried reports citing denunciations of 'Arafat's positions by the PNSF and the Fatah "Provisional Command."

A spokesman for the latter group viewed 'Arafat's declared readiness to meet with any Israeli official as "a real disaster and a direct gift to the Zionist enemy." The clandestine Al-Quds radio likewise carried a statement by Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC accusing 'Arafat of making the Palestine National Charter "a subject of bargaining and bidding" and of "heading toward recognizing the Zionist enemy."

The declaration of a Palestinian provisional government will be "the prelude for liquidating the cause," the PFLP-GC contended.

Syria

Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar held talks with CPSU Central Committee Secretary Anatoliy Dobrynin in Moscow 14 September, Damascus radio reported.

The two sides expressed "great satisfaction" with the development of bilateral relations, affirming that the "strong personal relations" between President Hafiz al-Asad and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are a "major pillar" for the promotion of these relations.

Al-Ahmar also met with Syrian students studying in the USSR, telling them that Syria has achieved "positive results" in its efforts to overcome economic difficulties, the radio noted.

Libyan Chemical Weapons Issue

Japanese officials cited by KYODO stated there is "no evidence" to support U.S. claims that machine tools exported from Japan to Libya are being used in a chemical weapons factory.

Mauritania

The Special Court of Justice handed out jail sentences to 13 people, 6 of them in absentia, because of their involvement in a "secret and illegal organization" that became a "threat" to the country's security, Nouakchott radio announced.

The accused admitted belonging to an organization that was divided into civilian and military wings and was controlled by a central command located in a foreign country, the radio said.

Related reports by BBC World Service and Libreville Africa No 1 radios noted that the secret organization was Ba'thist and linked to Iraq. Those imprisoned included former Information Minister Mohamed Ould Breideleil.

Pakistan-USSR

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze received the Pakistani ambassador in Moscow for talks on Pakistan's compliance with the Geneva accords and bilateral relations, TASS reported.

Despite the Pakistani-Soviet differences on the Afghan issue, a commentary on Islamabad radio stressed that both sides are keen to boost bilateral relations, noting the Pakistani minister of finance, commerce, and planning is scheduled to visit the USSR shortly to discuss expanding Soviet-Pakistani cooperation in trade and industry.

Pakistan wants peaceful, good, and friendly relations with the USSR, the commentator said, and these relations will be strengthened by Soviet help for Pakistan's economic development.

Inter-Arab Affairs

UN Arab Group Protests Dispatch of Team to Iraq

JN1609075988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Arab group in the United Nations has protested plans by the United Nations to dispatch a team to Iraq to investigate claims by the United States and the Zionist enemy that Iraq used chemical weapons against the Kurdish rebels. The protest memorandum was handed to the UN secretary general by Brother Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz Sallam, our country's ambassador to the United Nations and the current head of the Arab group, and Dr Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's UN representative.

In its memorandum of protest, the Arab group said that the dispatch of such a team is viewed as interference in the domestic affairs of an Arab country that is a UN member in addition to the fact that these claims disseminated by the United States, the Zionist entity, and other forces against Iraq are baseless. The Arab group added that such a step will harm the UN-sponsored peace efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran.

UN Group Commander Views Gulf Cease-Fire

LD1409093088 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0735 GMT 14 Sep 88

[By Salih Konjohodic]

[Text] Baghdad, September 14 (TANJUG)—Though there is still a great deal of danger, both sides are showing a good deal of goodwill for peace. I have seen this on people's faces and that means a lot more than official statements and assurances. This in short, would be a brief sketch of the latest report by Yugoslav Major-General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) for supervising ceasefire along the 1,200-km Iran-Iraq border.

UNIIMOG forces received encouragement and thanks from U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar for their selfless efforts in carrying out their duties. Supervising ceasefire operations along the border's great length without any bigger incidents and loss of human life, has required great military discipline and determination. These demands have faced Major-General Jovic in his day-to-day negotiations with both sides including the capability of making very important decisions.

In the 23 days since the official declaration of ceasefire, only two incidents have been recorded on the Iraq-Iran frontier, stressed Major-General Jovic. In border skirmishes, one Iraqi and one Iranian soldier died. Anticipating danger, one of the commanders withdrew an entire unit and replaced it by another in order to avoid actions of revenge.

How does UNIIMOG's commander establish if the ceasefire decision is respected?

I do so in the field, said Major-General Jovic. I simply ask soldiers on both sides what orders they have been given by their commanders, in case of incidents.

Overseeing the ceasefire carries a lot of danger for the security of unarmed U.N. forces. Aware of this, their commander never forgets a basic military rule—that of showing a personal example. He was the first to pass through the numerous mine fields along the frontier.

However, that is not the greatest danger, says Major-General Jovic. Numerous grenades, mines and other dangerous material scattered all over the place pose a much greater threat.

What are UNIIMOG's primary tasks?

After spreading out the opposed forces, which are very close—in some places only 25-150 metres apart, we will devote our time to certain humanitarian aspects of ceasefire on the frontier, said Major-General Jovic. One such task, which was successfully completed, was the transportation of a group of 15 soldiers from one side of the frontier to the other. We are now attempting to collect the bodies of the dead, because there is danger of cholera and other diseases, said Major-General Jovic. New tasks will follow, such as the exchange of prisoners of war. UNIIMOG forces have a lot of work ahead of them, but no one is complaining, peace is more important than anything else.

This is all a great responsibility, said UNIIMOG commander Major-General Slavko Jovic. It is vital that U.N. forces retain complete neutrality. This implies, added Major-General Jovic, an objective viewing of all conflicting cases along the frontier and taking independent and unbiased stands and decisions, no matter if either side is not too happy with the decision.

Endeavouring to retain this neutrality balance, Major-General Jovic travels alternatively between Baghdad and Tehran. So far, he has paid one-day visits to both capitals. However, in order to gain a better view of the situation, he has decided to make week-long visits to both countries in future.

Several days ago, the Swiss Government placed at Major-General Jovic's disposal a special plane complete with crew in order to facilitate his duties. The crew, headed by Captain Yim, is preparing to fly over the ceasefire line. Major-General Jovic said that this was a personal wish. Flying over the battle fields where men fought for eight bloody years, is not just a symbolic gesture, but also an important result of the peace mission, said Major-General Jovic.

Jordanian, PDRY, Kuwaiti Ministers on Issues

PM1309123588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 88 pp 1-2

[Ghassan Shirbil report: "Al-Masri, Al-Dali, and Al-'Usaymi Talk to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT"]

[Excerpts] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordan will be the first to recognize a [Palestinian] state or any form of government. This is what Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday in Nicosia on the sidelines of the nonaligned ministerial conference. [passage omitted]

About his Nicosia meeting with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, Al-Masri said: I met with Brother Qaddumi on the sidelines of the ministerial conference and reviewed the issues raised in the political statement, especially those relating to the Palestinian problem, the Middle East, and the uprising. Views were in agreement. Brother Qaddumi briefed me on what is happening within the Palestinian leadership and its ideas about the next steps. For my part I briefed him on developments in the Jordanian arena and the method used to implement the Jordanian measures, as well as Jordan's Arab contacts.

On the stand Jordan will take if a Palestinian government-in-exile or a similar formula is declared, he said: Jordan hopes to be the first to recognize an independent Palestinian state or any form of government if this is declared. We do not prefer a particular formula. Both King Husayn and Brother Abu Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] openly pointed out that Jordan will support without any hesitation any decision the PLO makes in this regard, and that the matter is totally up to the PLO; we will not object to whatever it decides.

Asked whether there will be any meetings in the near future he said: The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will meet in Amman 15 September. Brother Abu Mazin will head the Palestinian side.

Asked whether the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has been abandoned completely, he said: The Palestinian desire is clear now, namely an independent delegation. Jordan is clear when it says it will agree to accept what the PLO agrees to.

On U.S. efforts and Washington's constant talk of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, he said: There is no new political stand in the region. We are waiting for stands to crystallize: the PLO stand (PNC session) and the results of both the Israeli and U.S. elections. He added: There are no political activities toward a peaceful solution. We are waiting for stands to crystallize. This is in addition to the new factor in the region, namely, the end of the Iraq-Iran war and subsequent facts in the Gulf and the Middle East. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali about his country's position on a Palestinian government-in-exile. He said: Our stand is clear regarding the Palestinian cause. We have always supported the will of the Palestinian people, their rights, and the decisions made by their leadership represented by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative. We will welcome and support any decision the PLO makes. [passage omitted]

Asked about relations between the two parts of Yemen after the recent measures he said: Relations between the two parts of Yemen, especially after the 4 May Sanaa meeting between YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, are normal. What was agreed regarding citizens' use of only identity cards for movements between the two parts of their homeland reflects a joint understanding aimed at eliminating all obstacles, restoring unity between the two parts of Yemen, and opening the door for agreements in various fields.

He expected new meetings to be held at the leadership level in the near future to look for new ways of enhancing the unionist trend. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi about the main Arab issues discussed at the nonaligned ministerial conference. He said: The uprising in the occupied territories was focused on and great attention was paid to it, especially as this was the movement's first meeting since the glorious uprising started. [passage omitted] We in Kuwait see that what the PLO decides will necessarily fulfill the aspirations and interests of the Palestinian people. Undoubtedly we will give our blessing to what the Palestinian brothers agree upon. [passage omitted]

Regarding his meeting with the head of the Iranian delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, he said: I met with the Iranian delegation, just as I met with other delegations. We discussed the region's anxieties and affairs in general as well as the issues included on the agenda. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To 'Ask' About Kidnapped Journalist

LD1509152588 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1454 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has agreed to help the campaign for the release of British journalist John McCarthy, being held hostage in Lebanon.

Before leaving Strasbourg after a two-day visit to the European Parliament, he told National Union of Journalists' committee member Tony Robinson that he would make inquiries.

"I can ask—I cannot promise, but I will ask," the PLO chairman replied when requested to use his influence to win Mr McCarthy's release.

Mr Robinson, a press officer for a socialist group at the European Parliament which invited Mr 'Arafat to Strasbourg, said: I had the chance to speak to Mr 'Arafat alone for some time.

"I asked him if he would use what influence he has to bring about John's release.

"He told me: 'I can ask—I cannot promise, but I will ask'. His officials took a note of my address and said they would be in touch."

'Arafat Emphasizes PLO Status, Seeks Elections

NC1609074088 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] In an interview with French Communist Party mouthpiece L'HUMANITE, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has challenged all those who claim the PLO does not represent the Palestinian people. Brother Abu 'Ammar called for holding elections in the occupied territories after the withdrawal of the Zionist forces to affirm this fact. He set a condition in this regard that the winners of the elections should be the representatives of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Begins Visit to GDR

For GDR accounts of the visit to the GDR by 'Yasir Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Council, including his talks with Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the GDR State Council, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 15 September East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Fatah Official Condemns 'Arafat Statement

JN1509162588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus—'Abd al-Hadi al-Nashshash, Fatah-Provisional Command central information official, has condemned 'Arafat's recent statement in Strasbourg in which he announced readiness to meet any Zionist official wishing to meet him. In a statement to SANA today, Al-Nashshash described this statement and 'Arafat's recent treasonous stands as a real disaster and a direct gift to the Zionist enemy which helps to strike at, threaten, and abort the valiant Palestinian popular uprising.

He said 'Arafat's continued concessions must be confronted with unified national Palestinian efforts to halt the series of 'Arafatist treasonous concessions, which hit the heart of our people's cause and heroic struggle.

Concluding his statement, Al-Nashshash called for bolstering the militant alliance of the Syrian-nationalist Lebanese-Palestinian triangle of steadfastness to destroy these plots and prevent them from being peddled.

PFLP-GC Condemns 'Arafat's Strasbourg Remarks

JN1509182588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1622 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] On 'Arafat's statement during his visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and his announcement of accepting [Security Council] Resolutions 242 and 338, and official spokesman for the PFLP-GC stated the following:

Lately, the deviationist method's symbols began to make statements in which they crazed for recognizing the Zionist enemy. Every now and then, news agencies carry either a document advocating recognition and capitulation, or another determining the character of the Palestinian homeland and its political future on a part of Palestinian soil. This was demonstrated in the documents of Abu Sharif and Faysal al-Husayni.

From one statement to another, the clauses of the Palestine National Charter became a subject of bargaining and bidding. In his recent statement before the European parliamentarians, 'Arafat announced his acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338. Hence, 'Arafat once again affirmed that he is heading toward recognizing the Zionist enemy. This reveals the following facts:

1. A complete violation of the resolutions of the constitutional PNC sessions, which rejects recognition of the aforementioned resolutions.

2. Bypassing the role of other actions, which are represented in the [PLO] Executive Committee under his leadership, and what has been agreed upon among these sides.

3. Stabbing the popular uprising, degrading our masses' struggle, and betraying the pure bloods. While recognizing Resolutuions 242 and 338, 'Arafat did not feel embarassed to congratulate the Zionists on the occasion of the so-called Jewish New Year.

'Arafat's talk about the integrity and indivisibility of international resolutions is only a division of the Palestinian right, and a cover up for his acceptance of Resolution 242, which contradicts all partial resolutions on the Palestinian cause that preceded it.

In this statement, we in the PFLP-GC do not respond to 'Arafat's statement and capitulation because we were surprised by them. But, to remind and affirm that this stage requires that all Palestinian forces make their stands a practical obstacle before deviationist and treason plots, especially since 'Arafat wants in his next PNC to gain a formal mandate and approval to declare a provisional government or otherwise. This will be the

prelude for liquidating the cause and the national rights and for recognizing the Zionist entity. We are fully confident that our masses, who are fighting with stones, and all nationalists in both Arab and Palestinian arenas will not allow the renegades and capitulationists to continue to walk along their path until the end.

[Signed] PFLP-GC Central Information.

Group Denounces 'Treasonous' 'Arafat Statements

JN1609054788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut—The PNSF [Palestinian National Salvation Front] has denounced 'Arafat's treasonous statements and his policy of relinquishing rights, which he has adopted within the framework of his panting after illusory, capitulatory solutions. In a statement following its meeting in Beirut yesterday, the PNSF said: What more can 'Arafat sell out to have the U.S. Administration accept a dialogue with him? What will he offer for the enemy leaders to agree to a dialogue with him?

In its statement, the PNSF said: It has become clear that 'Arafat is offering all these concessions with only one objective, that of sowing discord among the Palestinian national ranks and weakening and aborting the Palestinian uprising.

The PNSF called on all militant Palestinian forces that reject recognition of the Zionist entity to adopt a serious and responsible stand to confront the conspiracies against the uprising.

PLO's Al-Hasan on Government, Mutual Recognition

JN1509155288 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 15 (GNA)—A senior Palestinian official was quoted as saying today formation of a provisional government should be preceded by declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Khalid al-Hasan, member of the PLO's Fatah Central Committee, told 'AL-ITTIHAD' newspaper such a state would remove many obstacles for convening an international conference.

"Setting up a provisional government should be preceded by proclamation of an independent state that will further strengthen the Palestinian uprising," he said.

He said recognition between the PLO and Israel should be mutual but added: "Such a recognition is linked to the results of the international conference and the U.N. Resolution 181 which calls for both Palestinian and Israeli states."

Regarding Jordan's decision to cut links with the occupied West Bank, he said the move has "removed all doubts about Palestinian representation and the U.S. or Israel will not find any party other than the PLO to settle the Middle East problem."

He said the uprising, now in its 10th month, has achieved significant results." [no open quote as received]

"It gained world sympathy and caused splits in the Israeli society," he told the UAE daily.

PNC Not To Proclaim Palestinian Government

JN1609075388 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0635 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Sep (WAM)—A ranking Palestinian source has stated that during its forthcoming session in Algiers the PNC will not proclaim the provisional Palestinian government but will empower the PLO Executive Committee, or the PLO Central Council, or both to proclaim the formation of the provisional government at the appropriate time from the political point of view.

The Palestinian source told AL-ITTIHAD today that this does not mean that the PNC will not discuss the issue of the provisional government. The PNC will devote its attention to the discussion of this government's general political program, the definition of the broad lines within which it may act on the diplomatic level, the regulations that govern its executive departments, and the figures who will be appointed in this government, most of whom will be independent along with some from the occupied territories.

The source added that the legal and political committee that the PLO Executive Committee had tasked to study this issue has submitted a 22-page preliminary report that will be one of the documents the PNC will discuss. The source affirmed that all the factions, organizations, and independent figures who attended the 18th PNC session will attend the forthcoming session and the door will be left open to the other opposition factions who are members of the PNC to attend this session if they wish. However, the source ruled out the possibility of their attending after the dialogue with them in Tripoli, Libya, reaches a dead end.

Lack of 'Arab Support' Delays PNC Session

JN1509121688 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Sep 8 pp 1, 2

[Text] Well informed diplomatic sources have affirmed to AL-WAFD that the PLO has decided to delay the convening of the PNC until next month due to the lack of sufficient Arab support for its political program concerning the declaration of an independent Palestinian state and provisional government. The sources explained that the PLO leadership has told some Arab leaders and officials that it has been disappointed by the

Arab reaction and lack of any official statement by some major Arab states, especially Egypt, in support of an independent Palestinian state.

The PLO leaders also asserted that they were compelled to delay the convocation of the PNC to hold further consultations and contacts to secure the support of all Arab states for the Palestinian plan.

The sources referred to differences among the Palestinian leaderships on the timing of the PNC session. Some members of the Executive Committee want the council session to be postponed until after the next Arab summit in Riyadh and the issuance of an Arab decision in support of a Palestinian state and provisional government.

PLO Official Views Jordanian Decision

JN1509120888 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 Sep 88 p 15

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian leader has stressed that the PLO is able to bear the consequences of the Jordanian decision to dismantle legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank. He disclosed that Jordan had informed some Arab countries of the decision before formally announcing it.

In answer to a question from AL-BAYAN about press statements by a prominant Palestinian official that Jordan did not inform the PLO of its decision because the latter had been calling for this for a very long time, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and DFLP assistant secretary general, said that the PLO had actually demanded for a long time that the Arab countries, including Jordan, officially and practically recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and as the party responsibile for its people and occupied territories. It had also demanded that interference in internal Palestinian affairs be halted.

However, he added, the PLO has always, and especially since the 1974 Rabat summit, been working for the Arab countries' commitment in their Arab and international political behavior to these resolutions. This was again emphasized in the Algiers summit, he said. He added that the PLO was also demanding that the Arab countries be politically committed to supporting independent Palestinian representation and providing help and support for the popular uprising, as stated in the Algiers summit resolution. We sought for everybody to work to avoid placing additional burdens on the lives of the Palestinian people, who already face formidable burdens and hardships imposed by the Israeli occupation, he said.

'Abd Rabbuh said that the PLO welcomes and appreciates the Jordanian political step, which came in response to the Palestinian will, the Arab summit resolutions, and the resolutions of the various international organizations, including the United Nations. However, he added, some of the Jordanian measures were taken without the knowledge of the PLO or consultation with it.

'Abd Rabbuh disclosed that Jordan had informed a number of Arab countries of its intention to disengage legal and administrative links with the West Bank, but not the PLO, although the PLO is the first concerned party. He explained that recent Jordanian decisions, including paying employees' salaries, were made without prior notification of or consultation with the PLO. He went on to say: The PLO cannot explain this as a commitment to the Algiers summit resolution.

He stressed that the PLO has expressed readiness and will continue to be ready to bear full responsibility for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Answering a question on the accusations by some countries that the PLO is unable to bear the consequences of the Jordanian decision, 'Abd Rabbuh affirmed that the PLO is politically able to bear the full responsibility in representing the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in any solution or settlement within the framework of the international conference.

This, he said, is based on the role of the PLO itself. The PLO is practicing and expressing this role to confront the occupation and U.S. policy that want to cancel Palestinian identity and representation.

'Abd Rabbuh concluded his statement to AL-BAYAN by saying that the PLO is currently studying declaring a political stand. The main features of this stand, he added, will be mentioned in PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech before the European Parliament in Strasbourg. He said that this stand clarifies that the PLO, on the basis of international legitimacy, all UN resolutions, and its position as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, is ready to play its role within the framework of a just solution and an international conference. Consequently, the PLO stresses its readiness to bear the consequences of the Jordanian decision.

Islamic Jihad Movement Appeals for Unity

JN1509102188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1740 GMT 14 Sep 88

["Statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine"—date, place not given]

[Text] O masses of our Muslim Palestinian people: At a time when your blessed uprising is continuing and escalating; at a time when the nation's victory over the sword of occupation and despotism is being confirmed; at a time when we daily bid farewell to our martyrs and return from cemeteries to streets where we pelt the occupation army with stones and discredit the people of Israel; at a time when the Palestinian star, brightened by our uprising, rises on the gates of the captive Al-Aqsa

Mosque and shows the way to victory, liberation, and power as promised by God; at this time the Zionist enemy plots continue and the means and tools of repression escalate in a desperate attempt to break up the uprising, strike at it, and extinguish its torch. However, you have always been lying in wait for the enemy whom you chased and besieged as it besieged you. You have made it suffer as you are suffering. You have even made its chief of staff shout and say that even a miracle will not stop the uprising.

The conflict between some Islamic parties on the one hand and national parties on the other, particularly regarding the issuance of various contradictory calls for strike, and the accompanying hot arguments in our domestic arena during the past few days and weeks make us ask with grave concern if the enemy, which despaired of ending our uprising as the atheists did, is now trying to circumvent our accomplishments and strike at our unity—the unity of the masses' ranks—and make us lose one of our strongest weapons and greatest accomplishments of our uprising and preoccupy ourselves by striking one another. We will then quarrel, fail, and lose our influence.

The diversity of political powers and trends on our internal front is something we neither hide nor deny. We also neither conceal nor deny our different stands on the nature of the conflict with the Zionist enemy and on the short-term and strategic means and aims of our struggle and jihad. Nevertheless, this does not prevent us from realizing what has been embodied by our uprising in the practical arena of confrontation: One man, one demonstration, one stone, and one strike.

Although it is clear and certain that we differ in our political stands, it should also be clear to us that the enemy is still occupying the entire homeland. Consequently, the stone should have one direction: the chest of the occupying enemy. Otherwise, the stone will lose its sacredness, blessing, action, and sharpness. Our unity in the arena of action is one of the greatest accomplishments of our uprising, and this should not be relinquished under any slogan. Al-Aqsa Mosque is still captive, Gaza is besieged, Qalqilyah is bleeding, and the Ramallah villages are ploughed by tanks. Our prisoners in the enemy prisons do not find clean drinking water. They are suffering from hunger and humiliation and endure chains and nakedness. Shall we preoccupy ourselves with ourselves and forget about an enemy that is practicing all this and more?

O masses of our great people, the continuation and escalation of the uprising should be our primary concern. Those who imagine that the enemy can give them anything tonight or tomorrow morning should continue. [sentence as heard] Those who realize that it is a long and fierce battle and that the uprising will continue until liberation should continue to stress the unity of all masses in the arenas of confrontation.

Your movement, the Islamic Jihad Movement, which, together with you, has had the honor of sparking off the miraculous uprising and which played a primary role in finding a common denominator uniting all forces in the arena of action, pledges to continue struggle until the banner of cherished Islam is raised over the entire homeland. It appeals to you to unite your ranks in the arenas of demonstration and confrontation, in the arenas of stones and blood, and in the arenas of strikes and disobedience. Intensify your blows against the Zionist enemy in all arenas.

Do not allow for fratricide in the positions of action, stones, and jihad no matter how different the political stands are. We appeal to you and stress that we will continue with you on the same path we began with blood, bullet, and stone on the same clear and explicit stand: No capitulation, no relinquishment, no negotiation, no mid-road meeting, no to the U.S. peace and all liquidatory schemes. Yes to all of our sacred Palestinian soil from the river to the sea, yes to the unity of the nation, yes to the continuation of the uprising until victory and liberation. God is great, and glory to Islam.

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine

Algeria

Briefs

New Envoy to Mauritania

The president of the Republic received Mr Abdelmajid Allahoum prior to his departure for Nouakchott as Algeria's ambassador to Mauritania. [Excerpt] *[LD1609023188 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Sep 88]*

Egypt

Ghali Confirms Iranian Release of 16 Nationals

NC1509121288 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, Sept 15 (AFP)—Authorities here on Thursday confirmed that 16 Egyptian nationals captured by Iran in 1983 were freed a day earlier and were heading home via Rome aboard an Egyptian military aircraft. [passage omitted]

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said here Thursday the release was "a positive initiative contributing to furthering the cause of peace in the Middle East and facilitating contact between the various concerned parties."

Egypt had been supporting Iraq in its eight-year conflict with Iran and military analysts said that some Egyptians had joined the Iraqi Army.

Mr. Butrus Ghali also thanked the Italian Government for its efforts to secure the release.

MENA Reports Arrival

NC1509155888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1546 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—An Italian military aircraft arrived in Cairo from Rome this evening, carrying 16 Egyptian prisoners who were captured in Iran in 1983 on charges of violating Iranian territorial waters.

The prisoners had been handed over to the Italian Embassy in Tehran, which is in charge of Egyptian interests in Iran.

Foreign Ministry Comments

NC1509164088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—A Foreign Ministry official has expressed Egypt's appreciation of the efforts made by the Italian Government which resulted in the Iranian Government's release of 16 Egyptian fishermen held for allegedly violating Iranian territorial waters. It should be pointed out that the Italian Embassy in Tehran handles Egyptian interests in Iran.

The official stressed the need to resolve the problem of all prisoners of war in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598. He also expressed the hope that Iran and Iraq will succeed in achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region through negotiations.

'Abd al-Majid on Tabah, Other Issues

JN1609200188 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 11 Sep 88 pp 14-17

[By Ibrahim Salih]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The following interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid began at the Foreign Ministry's summer headquarters in Alexandria and was resumed at the foreign minister's office in Cairo before 'Abd al-Majid left for the nonaligned foreign ministers' meeting in Nicosia. The questions were many and diverse—domestic and foreign, regional and international, continental and global, historical and geographic, strategic and tactical. I asked him where to begin and he promptly said: From here, from Egypt because our foreign policy starts from Egypt and ends with Egypt, even if we move in circles to which we are affiliated from the historical, geographic, religious, or political standpoints. I then took a hint and began my questions.

It was natural to begin with the general strategy of Egyptian foreign policy 36 years after the revolution that defined certain priorities. What are the changes that have occurred in light of the local, regional, and international changes?

I realized the importance he attached to this question as he sat up in his chair and began to count his beads in both hands. He said:

The priorities of Egyptian foreign policy are strategic principles based on many considerations. Egypt is an Arab, African, and Islamic state and has an effective role to play in the region surrounding it. Realizing Egypt's national security is the main aim of Egyptian foreign policy. Perhaps this is the most noteworthy element in this strategy which is responsible for its survival for a long time amid the region's changes and developments—which require some transformations in these priorities. The most important example is that just and comprehensive peace is now our top priority. Our aims now are peace, stability, and development. Over 30 years ago, confrontation rather than dialogue and negotiations was the basis of our strategy. However, it should be understood that the peace I am talking about should be based on strength, capabilities, and the Egyptian resources. [passage omitted]

[Ibrahim Salih] Had I not started with the general framework, I would have asked a question about an issue that the Egyptian people have been experiencing—an issue whose result will appear 18 days from now; namely, Tabah.

And with strong assertiveness 'Ismat replied: Tabah is Egyptian territory by all standards. However, following Israel's refusal to withdraw from it, Egypt wanted to settle the issue, and we decided to submit it to international arbitration. It is well-known that the arbitration ruling is just like an ordinary court ruling. It is binding and obligatory to the sides which accepted the arbitration. It is not like international mediation which is optional, not obligatory.

Egypt submitted all the legal, historical, and geographic documents that prove the justice of its cause. We also obtained all the relevant documents and maps that affirm our rights from all the states that had a presence in the region. The case was presented, and the court heard witnesses who had inspected the area. Deliberations have already begun among the panel of judges, and the verdict will be given on 29 September.

In all the above stages, the Egyptian side adhered to the principle of complete sovereignty over Tabah. We have not and will never concede this principle. We hope and expect that the verdict will be in Egypt's favor. However, we must await the verdict, and we are confident of the justice of our position. Until the verdict is given, we should not present any propositions that might complicate matters. Suffice it to say that Egypt is prepared to deal with all eventualities and move rationally and with an open mind as long as these developments agree with Egypt's sovereignty and are in harmony with Egyptian laws and Egyptian securty requirements. Our moves will be within the Egyptian Government's polices and according to our constitutional systems. [passage omitted]

[Ibrahim Salih] How does Egypt see the PLO's role now in the occupied territory with the uprising continuing and against the backdrop of King Husayn's severance of ties with the West Bank? He said: A PLO delegation led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] visited Cairo and held lengthy consultations. Egypt's position was made clear and called for the PLO to adopt realistic approaches compatible with the Palestinian people's aspirations. We held that this should take the form of a political program that would make the point to the whole world that the PLO has the credentials to represent the Palestinians. We stressed the importance of PLO-Jordan coordination in every step. At the express instructions of President Mubarak, we put our political and legal counsel at the disposal of the PLO in the coming stage.

Speaking about political and legal counsel, our conversation shifted to the proposed interim government and its suitability or otherwise for the Palestinian entity and whether it would be received as favorably as was the PLO by the international community. I think the PLO is now in the process of studying the road most favorable to the international community. I would repeat the importance of producing an internationally acceptable, clear political program before an announcement on the form of the Palestinian entity. International acceptance of the form of the Palestinian entity will be subject to the Palestinian political program or approaches. It is important that the Palestinians agree among themselves on these points before making any announcement on the form of the Palestinian entity. We are very clear on that score: We will go along with whatever form they come up with.

Continuing our conversation on the Palestinian issue, our conversation shifts to the proposed international conference.

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid says the international conference notion has experienced quite a few developments. Egypt's diplomatic efforts and President Mubarak's U.S. and West European trips have helped in no small measure before the idea of the conference found favor with various parties and the sides to the conflict with the exception of Israel. The U.S. Administration recently expressed a commitment to invigorate the regional peace process—evidenced by the recent Murphy-Polyakov meetings. We hope the momentum will continue as the U.S. Presidential election approaches. As for Israel's eventual position, I think it will be determined by the upcoming election results.

Our conversation goes on about peace in the Mideast but this time about another spot, namely the border between Iraq and Iran and whether there will eventually be peace between them. Our dialogue also touches on the shape of the future in the Gulf and their bilateral relations in the event of peace.

Dr 'Ismat believes that the Arabian Gulf region has emerged from the experience of the Iraq-Iran war more cohesive than ever before. The heroic support the GCC states extended to Iraq in its long war with Iran was very influential in uniting fraternal feelings for the sake of supreme Arab interests and in standing like one man alongside Iraq in the face of the dangers it has bravely endured.

We hope that the direct talks between Iraq and Iran will lead to a just and comprehensive peace settlement that will put a final end to this long conflict in which the blood of thousands of victims has been shed. We also hope the two peoples will focus attention on rebuilding what has been destroyed by the war in an atmosphere of mutual trust. By the way, I consider these talks one of the very hot issues that I follow very closely. Part of these talks has to do with the Egyptian prisoners in Iran. Over a year ago, we raised this subject with the International Committee of the Red Cross. We hope it will be resolved within the framework of Resolution No 598, which is under negotiation, especially since Iran has refused to announce a list with the true number of prisoners or details pertaining to them. One of the main goals of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is to look after Egyptians abroad and guarantee their rights. This is one of the topics in which Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi is concerned in the joint higher committees set up between Egypt and some Arab countries.

This remark leads us to Egyptian-Arab relations, which are now in their final stage of development. What is the nature of these relations, and what are the principles on which they are based? What is the framework within which Egypt is moving regarding these relations?

A broad smile appears on Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's face when he says: First I would like to state that Egyptian-Arab relations are strategic and historical, stemming from ties of brotherhood and common destiny. I would also like to stress our Arab affiliation, which is based on facts that have historical roots. I can say that Egyptian-Arab relations have reached the stage of maturity. They have also developed and begun to cope with the facts of the age in which we are living. Our ties with the Arab countries have been translated into close cooperation in various fields. The joint committees you now see between us and some Arab countries are only an attempt to entrench and formalize the spheres of cooperation with the Arab brothers. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, there are anomalous stands, like those of Syria, Libya, and Algeria. However, the Egyptian stand toward them is neither negative nor hostile because we harbor amity and fraternity to their peoples. Attempts were made to restore relations with Algeria, for instance, but these attempts stumbled for reasons that have since become known. Algeria demanded that the Egyptian foreign minister go to Algiers first. We rejected that because the restoration of relations should not have preconditions.

As for Syria and Libya, they are carrying out hostile campaigns against Egypt's position. Their news media attack us on every occasion, something that I do not accept. This behavior is not confined to their relations with Egypt; it is also their behavior with the other Arab countries. This is proven by their position on the Iraq-Iran war. The final analysis is that they are now isolated from the rest of the Arab world. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Welcomes 'Arafat-Dumas Meeting

NC1509142388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has welcomed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today emphasized the importance of such meetings in view of the important role which France plays in promoting peace efforts in the Middle East. He noted in this respect that France is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a member of the EC.

Mubarak Orders New Relief Aid Sent to Sudan

NC1509142188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has given instructions for a third airlift of urgent relief aid to Sudan to help it cope with the dangers resulting from recent floods and torrential rains. The relief aid is part of Egypt's continued efforts to help brother Sudan deal with the catastrophe.

The relief aid includes tents, medicines, vaccines, foodstuffs, clothing, and blankets for affected areas in the northern and eastern sectors of Khartoum and certain areas in the South. It also includes medical equipment and vaccines to enable the Egyptian medical teams currently working in the affected areas to vaccinate the citizens and provide medical services.

It is worth noting that the operation room established by the NDP collected this material from various popular and government institutions and businessmen, so that it could be sent urgently to Sudan.

AL-AHRAM Condemns U.S. Sanctions Against Iraq

JN1509144388 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Second Front!"]

[Text] Brave Iraq has begun to face a new war of a different kind when it has barely overcome the problems of its war with Iran which is supposed to have ended, but instead has stumbled in the first round of talks.

The new war against Iraq was declared suddenly by the U.S. Congress, which has imposed economic sanctions on Iraq and sworn to oppose any aid to it, stop importing its oil, and frustrate its attempts to obtain aid from world banks and financial institutions. This is a rather strange hostile position which we cannot understand, a position which is bound to cause ill feelings for two main reasons: First, the decision has come at a time when Iraq is seeking reconstruction to lessen the effects of the war. Like Iran, it expects to obtain international aid in accordance with the obligations of the international community, headed by the United States, to help repair the damage caused by the war as stipulated in the Security Council resolution on the cease-fire. Second, the decision has come at a critical moment when the peace negotiations are still unsettled.

The excuse given by the Congress is its claim that Iraq has used chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds in the north. This claim was denied even by Turkey, Iraq's northern neighbor where many Kurdish groups have sought refuge. Iraq itself has issued a general amnesty to the Kurds, calling on them to return to their homes and

guaranteeing them complete freedom of movement and travel. Furthermore, it has released all Kurdish detainess and prisoners with the exception of certain traitorous leaders.

The neutral observer cannot but view this decision with suspicion and attribute it to Zionist influence which sometimes directs U.S. policy in the wrong direction. There is no doubt that Zionist circles in Israel are perturbed by the end of the war since it makes Iraq an added asset to Arab power. Therefore, Israel is making every possible effort to tame Iraqi power and to hamper every international effort, beginning with the U.S. arena, to revitalize Iraq.

From the moral viewpoint, the decision, in addition to aggravating relations which should have witnessed improvement with the peace prospects, condemns the Senate which issues it. This is because the Senate not only denounced and condemned a disputable incident, but also interfered in the affairs of a sovereign state by imposing extensive harsh sanctions on it. Yet, this very Senate is unable to prevent its own government from assisting regimes, such as Israel and South Africa, which are notorious for their systematic annihilation operations, and from engaging in anomalous adventures in Southeast Asia.

AL-AKHBAR on U.S. Decision's 'Hidden Objectives'

JN1509145488 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
13 Sep 88 p 5

[Editorial: "The Hidden Objectives Behind U.S. Senators' Decision"]

[Text] Was the timing of the U.S. Senate's attempt to tarnish the image of Iraq a mere coincidence? Or was it the result of a scheme designed to serve suspect objectives and realize the purposes of certain groups and parties which the U.S. senators are eager to serve in the November election season which will elect a new president and new congressmen?

The sudden decision made by the U.S. senators regarding the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq on the pretext that it used chemical weapons against the Kurds—a charge that has not been substantiated by any international investigation—and the fact that this decision has been made at a time when sensitive negotiations are taking place between Iraq and Iran to end a vicious 8-year war, raise more than one question about the true intentions behind its timing, particularly as this suspect decision was adopted while the Congress was preparing to adjourn prior to the elections.

What is most surprising is that the U.S. Senate has assumed the role of prosecutor and judge without any factual evidence. It even disregarded the testimony of the Government of Turkey, a close U.S. ally, denying the U.S. accusation which the Senate has used as a pretext for its hostile stance toward Iraq, thereby creating tension between Washington and Baghdad at a time when the United States is seeking rapprochement with Tehran.

What is ironic about the U.S. position is that it coincides with the return of thousands of Kurdish exiles to Iraq following the general amnesty recently declared by the Iraqi president.

Security Forces Said To Torture Palestinians

PM1509104188 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic
13 Sep 88 p 1

['Amir 'Abd al-Mun'im report: "Egyptian Security Authorities Participate in Arrest of Uprising Children"]

[Text] The Egyptian security authorities last week arrested seven Palestinian children who had escaped the brutality of the Israeli occupation forces and managed to reach Egyptian territory and hide in the house of a citizen of Rafah.

The security forces sent them to the Turah jail, where Interior Minister Zaki Badr issued a warrant for their arrest.

The detained Palestinian children are: 'Ali Ahmad Nasir, 'Ali Muhammad al-Huryani, 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Muhammad, Walid Husayn Muhammad Musa, Nidal Musa Ibrahim, Al-'Abd Yusuf Subh, and Haj Khalil Ahmad Musa who is the owner of the house in which they hid in Rafah [six children's names as published].

AL-SHA'B has learned that the children were savagely tortured for 3 days in the state security investigation building in Lazughli. The purpose of the torture was to get information from them about the uprising leaders.

Commentary Views Israel's Aims in Palestine

NC1509133888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1140 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Interpretation of the Basic Peace Principles Cannot Be Improvised"]

[Excerpts] According to reports, Israeli occupation troops have started to implement the Israeli defense minister's new instructions to shoot Palestinian demonstrators who throw stones, injuring many of the Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's aides have stated that he insists that stones be regarded as fatal weapons and that those who use them be shot. These statements have created a controversy, and some have accused Shamir of wanting to turn Israel into a jungle. Observers following developments in the Palestinian uprising can easily note a clear escalation of repressive measures by the Israelis

over the past few days. In addition to the new instructions to shoot stone throwers, Yitzhaq Shamir has announced that there are other instructions on curbing the uprising, and quelling it if possible. [passage omitted]

In another development, reports cite PLO Executive Committe Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's remarks at the closed meeting of socialist members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. 'Arafat said that King Husayn's decision to break legal and administrative ties with the West Bank will lead to the establishment there of an independent Palestinian state. 'Arafat said that the only option for the PLO is to build an independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said that this state will be a democratic republic with a multiparty system and that it will be committed to the Human Rights Charter. There will be no discrimination against citizens due to color, creed or race, he said. This sheds light on the nature of the new state that Israel opposes on the pretext that it will endanger Israel's security and work to destroy it. It is clear that these excuses can be refuted. The proclamation of the Palestinian state according to the UN partition resolution in 1947 implicitly recognizes Israel's existence. Besides, it is illogical that a small, newly born state that will need dozens of years to build its institutions could threaten the security of Israel, a country which is armed to the teeth and possesses nuclear weapons. However, the real reason for Israel's objection to the establishment of the Palestinian state is that Israel wishes to expand and dominate Palestine and the Middle East, if possible. [passage omitted]

'Deterrent' Policy Against Israeli Intruders Planned
PM1509100988 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 1

[Muhammad Nawwar report: "A Policy To Deter Any Violation of Territorial Waters"]

[Text] An informed source has told AL-SHA'B that Egypt has decided to pursue a deterrent policy against Israeli violation of Egyptian territorial waters. This follows the seizure by Egyptian border guard forces of an Israeli yacht which had violated Egyptian waters. Thirty-one Israeli and other passengers were detained. The yacht, it was proved, had no permit to enter Egyptian waters.

The source emphasized that Egypt is determined to firmly and decisively confront any future Israeli excesses, particularly as Egyptian protests against previous Israeli violations of Egyptian waters proved futile.

Columnist Criticizes Dealings With Israel
JN1509193988 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad Al-Hayawan]

[Text] For those who love the dollar, the dollar becomes their nationality. Without the dollar, they become without a homeland, nationality, or identity. And perhaps the dollar may take from their hearts every shred of honesty, morality, and conscience. They tamper with everything, caring only about their bank accounts. Praise be to God, those are a minority, which do not shake confidence in the Egyptian private sector or the Egyptian businessmen. This is because the overwhelming majority deals with honesty, understands politics, distinguishes between a foe and a friend, and likes to conclude honest deals so as to maintain a presence in the market. This needs a good reputation and concern about the masses' feelings.

There are thousands of businessmen in Egypt. The number of those who perpetrate crimes can be counted on one hand. Some of those sell rotten food, get caught, and then leave the market. Some of them deal with Israel without realizing that they hurt the feelings of all the Arabs and all the Egyptians for the sake of a dirty handful of dollars.

Those dealing with Israel ignore that they are dealing with an enemy which gave nothing for peace and which continues to occupy Egyptian and Arab lands, continues to kill the Arabs in the occupied territory, continues to exercise the ugliest forms of terrorism against them, and continues to declare all hostility toward the Arabs.

This enemy also still attempts to ruin Egypt by smuggling into it drugs, forged dollars, and diseases we have not heard of before. Most of the plagues that afflict agriculture and animal wealth originate from Israeli fodder and fertilizers; those who deal with Israel are responsible. The list of those dealing with Israel can be counted on one hand. The last name in this list is a millionaire from Port Said who bought a ship from Jamaica with a capacity of 3,000 tonnes and uses it to transport tourists from Cyprus to Israel, Haifa and Elat. Fees are very trivial and are not worthy of declaring hostility against the Arabs and the Egyptians. A passenger from Limassol to Haifa is charged 60 pounds. The price is cheap. This was published by an Israeli paper. The millionaire was aboard the ship in the first voyage. Of course, he was received by Jewish journalists. He said we are now in a state of peace and do not work in politics. He knew he made a mistake, but he hides that.

The Israeli press could not deny that the crew of the ship which includes 60 Egyptians did not disembark in Haifa and did not try to mix with the Israelis at the port.

However, the crew mixed with the passengers because they were north European tourists. The meaning is clear. The ship's crew are much more honorable and manly than its owner.

Ghali Addresses African Miners' Seminar
NC1509115888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized the

need to convene an international conference on African debt to find a political solution to this problem, noting that Africa cannot repay these debts, which now total $220 billion.

Addressing the opening session of an African miners' seminar, Dr Ghali reviewed efforts to convene an international conference on African debts, noting that Egypt has been asked by the African summit conference, held in Addis Ababa in December, to contact the Netherlands, UNCTAD, and the Soviet Union. He added that Egypt had contacted these parties to explain the African stand on the debt issue and ask creditor countries and international and financial organizations to participate in this conference, during which a solution to this issue may be reached.

In his address to the African miners' seminar, in which trade union delegations from 15 African countries are participating, Dr Ghali called for consolidating trade union ties among African states within the context of South-South cooperation. He said that Egypt seeks to set up an African common market and asserted the need to reactivate relations and cooperation between public organizations as well as parties in Africa, adding: Through this African cohesion, we will be able to increase cooperation among the African states and lay down the bases for pan-African unity.

Referring to racial discrimination in South Africa, Dr Ghali stressed that Africa will succeed in eliminating racial discrimination as it succeeded in achieving independence. He pointed out that Egypt has decided to give aid to the special fund for the support of African Frontline States in order to assist liberation movements in South Africa against the racist regime there. He noted that this fund provides the African Frontline States with Egyptian expertise and services. [passage omitted]

Rwandan Official Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1609070988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Habimana, Rwandan vice president and secretary general of Rwanda's National Revolutionary Movement for Development, left Cairo early this morning after a 5-day official visit to Egypt during which he handed President Muhammad Husni Mubarak a message from the Rwandan president.

In a predeparture statement, Habimana said he would convey an oral message from President Mubarak to his Rwandan counterpart, in reply to the latter's message to Mubarak. He noted that he had held talks with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, as well as a number of other Egyptian officials, on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in agricultural and partisan fields and on issues of common interest.

Labor Raps Al-Qadhdhafi's Criticism of Mubarak

NC1609082588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—The opposition Socialist Labor Party has denounced the way Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi attacked President Husni Mubarak in person, and it has also condemned his declaration that he is ready to extend his hand to the Egyptian opposition to confront the Egyptian regime. The party asserted that its differences as an opposition party with the NDP and its government fall within the framework of the existing regime, and it noted that these differences are governed in their scope and attitude by the national considerations harbored by the Labor Party, which rejects any foreign hegemony.

The party's position came in a statement issued by its Executive Committee following its meeting last night in response to the Libyan colonel's attack against President Mubarak in person. The statement added that if differences exist among the Arab states, they should be handled through serious and responsible dialogue, in a way that would narrow these differences. The statement stressed that differences among governments must not harm the people's eternal interest in their work and security.

Prices for Crude Oil Adjusted 15 Sep

NC1509150388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Egypt has decided to adjust its oil prices during the second half of September. Here is a list of the new prices: Suez Gulf and Ra's al-Bihar crude $12 per barrel; Bala'im crude $11.15 per barrel; Ra's Badran crude $10 per barrel; Ra's Gharib crude $9.70 per barrel.

The ad hoc committee on oil prices held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Hammad Ayyub, deputy chairman of the petroleum authority for foreign trade affairs. The committee reviewed developments in world oil prices, which showed fluctuations today and yesterday.

The new prices will apply as from today and remain in effect until 30 September.

Briefs

New Envoy to Jordan

Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador Muhab Muqbil left Cairo for Amman at noon today to present his credentials as Egypt's ambassador to Jordan. [Text] [*NC1509112988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Sep 88*]

New Assistant Foreign Minister

Cairo, Sept 15 (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad 'Ismat Rida was appointed assistant foreign minister for financial and administrative affairs. A decree to this effect was issued today by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. Rida was director of the Consulate Department at the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [*NC1509123088 Cairo MENA in English 1210 GMT 15 Sep 88*]

Libya

SFRY's Milosavljevic Meets Treasury Head

LD1509204988 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury today met the prime minister of the Republic of Yugoslavia Milos Milosavljevic in Tripoli. The meeting dealt with cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways of bolstering relations for the good of the two peoples.

Minutes on Visit Signed

LD1509205788 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The minutes of a meeting between the Great Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia were signed this evening in Tripoli. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury and the vice president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council [Milos Milosavljevic]. The minutes included the bolstering and developing of cooperation betwen the two friendly peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia in all fields.

Mauritania

Members of 'Secret Organization' Sentenced

LD1509225988 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The state security division of the special court of justice has made the following ruling:

The state security division of the special court of justice held a public session in Jreida 10-14 September 1988. After conducting its deliberations in accordance with the law it announced:

1. In accordance with the provisions of Clause 82 of the Criminal Law, the state security division found the following guilty of crimes, and issued the appropriate sentences:

Mohamed Said Ould Husni, alias [name indistinct]—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas; Hamoud Ould Brahim—4 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas; Mohamed Ould Mohamed Lemine—4 years in prison, with a fine of 200,000 ouguiyas; Mohamed Ould Bomba—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguyias. The sentence was given in absentia and is suspended.

Jail sentences have been handed down in absentia against: Moctar Ould Saleck—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguyias. The sentence is suspended. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ishak—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguyias. The sentence is suspended.

2. In accordance with the provisions of Clause 82 of the Criminal Law, the state security division declares the following persons guilty of collusion and sentenced them as follows: Ahmed Ould Biah—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas. This sentence is pronounced in absentia, and is suspended. Mohamed Sghaier Ould Breidelleil—2 years in prison, with a fine of 100,000 ouguiyas; Mohamed Ould Ahmed, alias Memed—3 years in prison, with a fine of 150,000 ouguiyas.

3. In accordance with the provisions of Clause 97 of the (?criminal) law, the division declares the following guilty, and sentences them as follows: Mohamed Ould Dah [name indistinct]—3 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas; Yahya Ould Mohamed Do—4 years in prison with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas; Aisa Ould Hilal—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas. This sentence was handed down in absentia and is suspended; [name indistinct]—5 years in prison, with a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas. The sentence was handed down in absentia and is suspended.

A few years ago these people founded a secret and illegal organization. They have since been a threat to the domestic and external security of the country.

During their trial these people admitted all the accusations levelled against them, and revealed how they conducted their secret organization. Among these confessions it was revealed that the organization they set up in violation of all the (?norms) of the state law, consisted of three wings: two civilian wings and a military wing. The three wings were under the control of a central command located in a foreign country and was led by foreigners. This command provided them, in a dubious way, with huge amounts of money, which they spent in recruiting followers of their tendencious propaganda, especially minors, in addition to paying for [words indistinct] for their secret meetings, and recruiting weak souls in the ranks of the armed forces, the national guard, and the police.

The open trial was attended by a large number of citizens and by observers of Amnesty International and the Organization of Human Rights. Twelve lawyers acted for the defendants.

BBC Gives Background

AB1509175788 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 15 Sep 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The sentencing of 16 Mauritanians accused of recruiting a Ba'thist army sponsored by Iraq was notable for the conviction of a former information minister, Yehdih Ould Breideleil, said to be the leader of the group. Mauritania has a military government, so the Ba'thists were bound to operate in secret. But as [word indistinct) Bahkaye reports in this telex from Nouakchott, the Ba'thists at one time had a much more open role in Mauritanian politics:

[Begin report] Relations between the Ba'thists and the various military regimes in Mauritania have been blowing hot and cold since the civilian regime of Ould Dada was ousted in 1978. At that time, the Ba'thists claimed a role in Colonel Ould Saleck's coup. While that role has been questioned, it is indisputable that after the 1978 coup the Ba'thist influence increased. Breideleil, for instance, became Ould Saleck's information minister. However, the Ba'thists influence on national affairs was checked in 1982 when a large number of them were arrested. This followed a meeting held outside Nouakchott between Ba'thist politicians and a number of non-commissioned military officers. At the time, the Iraqi Embassy in Nouakchott was accused of recruiting Mauritanians into the Ba'thist Party by using financial incentives. Those arrested in 1982 were released in 1984 in an amnesty ordered by Colonel Ould Taya, the current head of state, and that followed considerable improvement in relations with Iraq.

But just last year, Breideleil and other prominent members of the party were arrested again and tried before a civilian tribunal. They received short suspended sentences in what was seen as a warning shot by the government. However, the warning seems to have been ignored, and the Ba'thists continue to pursue their illegal political activities. Yesterday's sentences appear to underline the message that the time for a multi-party system-at least one that includes the Ba'thists—has yet to come about in Mauritania. [end report]

Africa No 1 Report

AB1509204588 Libreville Africa No 1 in Frenc h 1230 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The trial involving Ba'thists in Mauritania has ended and the verdict was handed down yesterday after a 4-day trial. Wimba Ondo has the details:

[Ondo] Contrary to what was expected, the verdict is relatively severe when one considers the public prosecutor's charges. The relatively severe sentences are after all due to the fact that most of the defendants had been given suspended sentences at a previous trial organized in 1987. Those affected are Mohamed Ould Breidelleil, former information minister and leader of the Mauritanian pro-Iraqi Ba'thist movement until June 1988. He was sentenced for complicity to 2 years imprisonment with no possibility of remission and fined 500,000 CFA francs. Mr Breideleil, it may be recalled, had pleaded guilty, accusing the Iraqi Embassy in Dakar of financing and counseling the Mauritanian Ba'th Party. Since an offense openly admitted is half pardoned, the public prosecutor had called for extenuating circumstances. Those who received more severe sentences include Mr Ould Hussein and four people tried in absentia, and against whom warrants of arrest were issued. After the verdict, Mr Mohamed Lemine, former officer who had denied any membership of the Ba'th movement, and who was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment with no possibility of remission shouted: Long live Ba'th, long live Saddam Husayn!

This affair has also affected the Army as many dozens of officers have been dismissed over the past few weeks. The trial was followed by observers of Amnesty International and of the International Human Rights Commission. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Briefs

News Agency Agreement

Moroccan Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri described the agreement signed between the LUSA news agency and its Moroccan counterpart, MAP, as a move to strengthen the friendship between Lisbon and Rabat. Basri was speaking during the signing of the agreement attended by the Portuguese Ambassador Jorge Rito. At the same time a complementary cooperation agreement was also signed between the Moroccan news agency and the Luso-Arab Institute for Cooperation, represented by its vice president, Gomes de Pinho. [Text] [*LD1509060588 Lisbon International Service in Portuguese 1815 GMT 10 Sep 88*]

Intra-Gulf

Meeting Discusses Bahrain-Qatar Territory Dispute

PM0909102588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 88 p 1

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Tripartite Gulf Meeting To Discuss Fasht al-Dibal"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that high-level GCC representatives will head for both Tehran and Baghdad in the next few days as a response to the UN secretary general's letter calling on GCC states to help him make the Geneva negotiations a success and implement Security Council Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a private tripartite meeting was held at noon the day before yesterday on the sidelines of the GCC foreign ministers' meetings comprising [Saudi Foreign Minister] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, and Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Ibn Sayf Al Thani, during which the border dispute between the two states [Bahrain and Qatar] over the Fasht al-Dibal island was discussed. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

'Source' Voices Regret Over Anti-Iraq Campaign

JN1309190088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Manama, 13 Sep (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has voiced regret over the noxious foreign campaigns launched against Iraq—the campaigns which accuse it of using chemical weapons in northern Iraq.

A responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign ministry said today that the timing of these accusations against Iraq basically seeks to divert attention away from the negotiations being held in Geneva under the auspices of the UN secretary general in order to end the Iraq-Iran war and establish just and durable peace in the Gulf region. The source referred to Iraq's categorical denial of these accusations and to the statement by the Turkish Government—based on the report by the Turkish medical committee formed to investigate the matter. This report, the source added, confirmed that no Kurdish refugee in Turkey has been hit by chemical weapons. He continued: In spite of this, there is a determination to persist in this suspect campaign.

The source appealed to world states to support negotiations and advance the peace process to help it achieve the desired objective. Following is the text of the statement:

At a time when the State of Bahrain and other world states were following with great interest the progress of current negotiations in Geneva under the auspices of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the Iraq-Iran war and bring about just and durable peace in the Gulf region, we were surprised by this noxious campaign launched against Iraq by foreign media. These media accused Iraq of using chemical weapons in northern Iraq despite Iraq's categorical denial of these accusations and despite the clear official statement issued by the Turkish Government—the statement based on the report submitted by the Turkish medical committee especially formed for this purpose. The report submitted by this committee confirms that no Kurdish refugee in Turkey has been hit with chemical weapons. However, there is a determination to persist in this suspect campaign. The timing of these accusations against fraternal Iraq basically seeks to divert attention away from the basic issue, and obstruct the negotiation process and efforts to establish just and durable peace in the region.

While expressing regret over the launching of such campaigns, the State of Bahrain appeals to world states to focus attention on supporting the negotiations and on advancing the peace process to help it achieve its desired objective.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Appeals to OPEC on Oil Prices

LD1409215588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1534 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 14 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah appealed to OPEC member countries to contribute to "constructive cooperation" among them to protect oil prices from collapsing.

In a statement distributed by his office after a meeting for the Higher Council for Petroleum, Shaykh Sa'd said oil producing countries outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have also an equal responsibility for protecting oil prices from sliding down. He proposed that OPEC and non-OPEC countries should coordinate efforts and consult each other for the better interest of the international oil market and stable prices.

Oil prices jumped today in response to a call by OPEC Secretary General Subroto for the pricing committee to meet on the 25th of this month, well ahead of the scheduled meeting in November. Subroto's call comes following his tour of a number of OPEC and non-OPEC countries, including Iran and Iraq.

Afghan Foreign Minister Meets With Al-Jabir

LD1409171588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1321 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 14 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Wednesday met with Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, who is on a private visit to the country.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that discussions during the meeting dealt with the region's issues and developments in Afghanistan in the light of the Geneva agreement to settlement of the Afghani problem.

Shaykh Sabah emphasised the need to bring conflicts to an end by negotiations and peaceful means, the source said. "Sitting at the negotiating table is the best way to settle conflicts," Shaykh Sabah said.

Wakil Departs

LD1509104488 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0721 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sept, (KUNA)—Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil left last night to return to his country after a 2 day stopover in Kuwait, during which he met the Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Mr Abdul Wakil headed his country's delegation to the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers meeting in Cyprus last week.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Comments on Reagan Initiative

JN1109172988 Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 9 Sep 88 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Last Moment's Moves!"]

[Text] Always and at the last moment, senior U.S. officials propose ideas and suggestions to activate initiatives and revive old formulas and plans with the aim of resolving hot, difficult regional problems and conflicts. This happens when there is no time left in office to extend invitations and complete reception ceremonies.

This is our comment on the invitation extended by President Reagan to the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to visit Washington, meet with him, and discuss how to revive the initaitve that George Shutlz made several months ago. This initiative met with the intransigence of enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

It is regrettabgle for the current U.S. Administration to go through two presidential terms only to revive peace efforts in the Middle East when the United States is about to hold new presidential elections. Where these elections will fall on the map of conflict is unknown following the emergence of new facts, including the uprising, the ending of the Iraq-Iran war, and the growing defensive capability of Arab states. Nevertheless, we can speculate that the interest of the new U.S. Administration in Arab rights will not differ much from that of previous U.S. Administrations. About to leave the White House, the current U.S. Administration can no longer make new initiatives or revive old ones because Israel is now less interested in the current administration than in the coming one. Hence, it was natural for Shamir to reject Reagan's invitation and accuse the latter's administration of interfering in Israeli elections. Shamir forgot Reagan's services to him. He also forgot the great amount of aid and weapons that Reagan had extended to Israel and which Shamir used to occupy Arab territories and storm Lebanon's cities, villages, and its capital Beirut. Shamir forgot all this aid and regarded it as a pure U.S. duty.

Reagan's and Shamir's term of office will end in a few months. However, the general situation in the region will not remain as it is. This is because the uprising is escalating, and the Arab political stands are being brought closer despite some differences and personal judgments. This means the Israeli wager on exploiting Arab contradictions is about to fail before positive Palestinian and Arab developments. All that is required now is that the United States abandon its conviction that suporting and helping Israel and backing Israel's repressive policies and measures can bring security to Israel and achieve peace.

Resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict is an international responsibility that is not confined to the United States alone. The region is witnessing positive developments designed to reduce differences and end conflicts. It is not in the interests of the United States, under its coming administration, to isolate itself and place its weight alongside its friend Israel.

AL-ANBA' Criticizes U.S. Law, 'American Wolf'

JN1309191888 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Sep pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "The Wolf Howls Again"]

[Text] The U.S. draft law against Iraq calls for taking all U.S. measures to besiege Iraq economically and defame it in the international quarters for using poisonous gas against the Kurdish rebels on the Iraq-Iran border. The draft law, which will be approved by the Congress—the House of Representatives and Congress—and will be signed by Reagan the moment it is issued, after which he will address the United Nations, called for all aggressive steps against Iraq short of declaring war.

Thus, Washington suddenly discovered that Iraq uses poisonous gas against the rebels, that there are laws for wars, and that there is humanity which must be safeguarded. This happened as if the world has forgotten that the biggest tragedy in the history of war was when America used the first and second nuclear bomb against the people of Japan, killing hundreds of thousands in seconds and leaving millions to die and others disabled to be the witness to the most brutal, destructive, and ugliest crime in history. They believe that human conscience can forget the U.S. crimes against Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, which suffered and offered many victims on the altar of U.S. arms. They also believe that the world can forget the internationally-banned napalm bombs that burned thousands in Vietnam and Palestine, turning the bodies of innocent people into ashes.

Gentlemen: Listen well. The American wolf is howling and talking about human rights. This wolf hopes that through its howling it will divert attention away from the Palestinian uprising which is slaughtering this wolf every moment and scaring to hell its agents in Palestine. This wolf is howling loudly, thinking that Iraq will stop demanding its legitimate rights to Shatt al-'Arab and to the freedom of navigation—the freedom which the United States said that it came to the Arabian Gulf to defend. If Iraq demands this freedom, the United States will call on it to keep silent and be obedient. It also created for Iraq the problem of the Kurdish rebels, who are not in its calculations. What is required is to subjugate and punish Iraq for its refusal to sell out Baghdad's pride to America and to submit to Washington's request to curb the size of the Iraqi Army and demobilize its victorious cavalries. Because America can no longer manipulate the puppet to continue the war against Iraq, it decided to launch the war directly against Iraq and harbor enmity against it to the extent of almost declaring a comprehensive war.

After all, some people said that Baghdad is a U.S. hostage and Iraq has fallen in the Black House net. But Washington could not curb its enmity toward the Arabs and announced its aggressive steps and blatant threat to Iraq's interests and rights to sovereignty.

It is not strange for those who devoted themselves to protecting the Jewish dissidents in the USSR to claim the role of protector of the ethnic minorities seeking the fragmentation of Iraq. And it is not strange for those who had dreams of separating Basra from Iraq to wake up to a bitter defeat. The only good thing about the brutal U.S. onslaught—and Washington's good deeds on this earth are very rare—is that it once again showed with whom the United States and Israel stand and against whom they stand and will stand. For this only, we have to thank America. We were afraid that the shuffling of cards would peddle a big lie, such as to say that in America there is one voice in the interest of the Arabs or in Washington there is one dagger that is not sharpened to stab the Arabs from every side.

Columnist Accuses Iraq of 'Overreacting' to U.S.

JN1409141288 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 13 Sep 88 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Iraqi Media Need Not Overreact"]

[Text] One important fact that should always be remembered is that Iraq is bigger than a bunch of Zionists trying to throw a "monkey-wrench" into the great Iraqi victory.

Iraq has the capacity to surmount all ill-designed attempts to subvert its activities. This has been clearly demonstrated by its glorious victory. Iraq has emerged as an important military and political force. These facts are now terrifying Israel. Iraq is also annoying its enemy's and Israel's allies and thus should have expected such motivated designs. It must also be remembered that the U.S. Senate initiated disturbing moves because of the big gains achieved by Iraq. But then again, the U.S. Senate is not the United States. The American people who hate international terrorism have high esteem for Iraq's steadfastness against terrorism.

In view of the above facts, and with all due respect and esteem for Iraq's policies, Baghdad should not react strongly to the U.S. Senate's decision because it will not affect Iraq. One of the most important goals of the decision is perhaps to intimidate Baghdad and push it into over-reacting, thus paving the way for international Zionism to exploit the situation by insinuating that Iraq is against the American people. This is exactly what we do not want.

Baghdad emerged victorious from the eight-year-war and enjoys international respect that will not be affected by a group of fanatical Jews in the U.S. Senate. Moreover, this decision is of no importance to Iraq. As we said, Iraq does not need loans from U.S. banks or others. Iraq has ample capabilities and investment opportunities that can be translated into cash. What is wanted now is for the Iraqi media to stop reacting and replying to the decision by the U.S. Senate. This group in the U.S. Senate is certainly smaller than a demonstration in the streets of Baghdad. Iraq is stronger than them, and certainly more wiser.

These Zionists have damaged U.S. interests because they believe that protecting Israel is more important than protecting the U.S. itself. Events of the U.S. presidential election campaigns are striking evidence of the dirty roles the Zionists are playing in damaging the U.S. national interest. This fact has been highlighted publicly for the first time in the American media. We commend Baghdad on being the capital of true diplomacy.

Qatar

Egypt's Al-Baz Visits, Conveys Mubarak Message

JN1409110288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Sep

[Text] Doha, 14 Sep (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received an oral message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, delivered the message when the amir received him here today.

Attending the meeting were Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, Foreign Ministry undersecretary; and 'Isam al-Din Muhammad Hawwas, Egyptian ambassador to Qatar.

QNA says that the message—within the framework of continuous consultations and contacts between the Egyptian president and the Qatari amir—deals with current developments in the Arab and international arenas, fraternal bilateral relations, and means to further promote them in all fields.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1509122888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, who is on a visit to Doha. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, Foreign Ministry undersecretary. They discussed the current Arab and international situation and reviewed bilateral relations and how to develop and reinforce them. Dr Usamah al-Baz arrived in Doha on Tuesday on a 4-day visit to Qatar.

Departs Following Visit

JN1509192088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, this evening left Doha heading for home after a 3-day visit to Qatar. During the visit, Dr al-Baz delivered a message to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He also met with a number of senior officials at the Qatari Foreign Ministry.

Amir Receives Bahraini Heir Apparent

JN1409124988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 14 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defence Force, and the accompanying delegation, who came to greet his highness on their visit to Doha upon the invitation of Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, who attended the meeting.

On the Qatari side, the meeting was also attended by Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs. QNA reported that the meeting dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab and Gulf arenas, and means to bolster cooperation and understanding among the GCC states.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Algerian Minister, Message

JN1209105788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid dealing with current Arab developments, the situation in the Arabian Gulf in light of recent developments, and bilateral relations. Algerian Culture and Tourism Minister Boualem Bessaieh conveyed the message during a meeting with Shaykh Zayid at noon today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamid ibn Rashid al-Nu'aymi, ruler of 'Ajman; Hamad al-Midfa'; the health minister; and Mohamed Dayes, Algerian minister to the UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

People's Congress Denounces 'Campaign' Against Iraq

JN1609063488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] A responsible source in the Secretariat of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress has made a statement, published in yesterday's edition of the newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER, on the imperialist campaign against fraternal Iraq .

The statement says: The General People's Congress and the popular organizations in the YAR note that some U.S. and British quarters and those who revolve in their orbit are carrying out a rabid imperialist campaign against the fraternal Iraqi people in an unjust attempt to harm and defame them. This campaign is motivated by the fact that the Iraqi people have unquestionably proved that they respect peace, have responded to peace efforts and calls from the beginning, and have entered into direct negotiations with Iran to attain a lasting peace that will bring about a comprehensive peace in the region avoiding the perils of foreign interference. From this premise, the General People's Congress and the popular organizations express their strong denunciation of this campaign, which not only constitutes interference in the domestic affairs of fraternal Iraq but also seeks to harm the Arab nation's sovereignty and dignity and the region's security and stability and to obstruct the peace negotiations.

Parliamentary Delegation Heads for Sofia Meeting

JN1509142788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The Consultative Council delegation to the IPU 80th conference headed for Sofia today. The conference will be held in the Bulgarian capital from 19-24 September. The delegation is headed by Brother Ahmad Salih al-Ru'ayni, Consultative Council member. [passage omitted]

London Paper Interviews Hammadi on Gulf Security
PM1309111588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 4

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not specified]

[Text] [Sadiq] How would you assess the role played by the GCC states in general and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in particular in giving an impetus to Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in Geneva in order to achieve a breakthrough, success, and a settlement to the dispute?

[Hammadi] Frankly, the first thing which I believe would be both beneficial and sound is for the Arab states, especially the GCC states, to play a role in this regard. In the sense that they take an interest in and study such issues and not merely consider matters as negotiations between Iraq and Iran. Iraq is capable. Yes, this is perhaps true, but when the Arab states take an interest, adopt a stand and declare it, this is very beneficial. I will give examples of this: I believe that the seven-man committee formed by the Arab League has done a very useful job. Its diplomatic efforts have born fruit and shown success. We have witnessed the positive results of such activities.

Therefore, I say that the GCC states must play a bigger role. They must make contacts, be active diplomatically, and express their stands. The Arab stand must appear as an Arab stand in Geneva, not as an Iraqi-Iranian stand. Of course, the Iranians are trying to make it look as if matters concern Iraq and Iran alone. This is true with regard to Iraq, because it was laden with the largest share of burdens during the war. But the Arab states, especially the GCC states, are concerned with the issue directly, especially as there is a clause in Resolution 598, namely Clause 8, which concerns the Arabian Gulf region.

I believe that cooperation must be strengthened between us and them in these negotiations. An example of this cooperation has been shown by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. The cease-fire issue was negotiated over the telephone. I was with my colleague Tariq 'Aziz in his Baghdad office. And here in New York were Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Ambassador in Washington Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, and the UN secretary general. This cooperation achieved good results. I believe that more interest in and cooperation over the issue are required. Undoubtedly the role they are playing is useful, positive, and constructive.

[Sadiq] If a solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict is achieved, how do you visualize security in the region?

[Hammadi] I believe an agreement must be reached among all the states of the region—especially Iran—on noninterference in the affairs of others in the Gulf region. An agreement must be reached to preserve security in the region because lack of security in the Gulf would lead to foreign interference. By this I mean that if the Gulf states reached an understanding among themselves first, Gulf security could be maintained. This is the responsibility of the Gulf states. The pan-Arab statement of the president on 18 February relates to this.

[Sadiq] What is your interpretation of the timing of the U.S. State Department's statement condemning Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels, especially since the statement was announced a few hours before your meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz? How would you explain this official U.S. stand, despite the fact that you have told us that Iraq is studying the matter?

[Hammadi] I said and still say that I do not fully understand the true motives behind this campaign. Why at this particular time and on this scale, obviously I cannot give an exact answer, but it is essential that we search for the reasons. This is because this accusation is unfounded. You yourself can see that neither the U.S. State Department nor the U.S. media have furnished any proof of this at all. It is merely repetitious words and talk about previous accusations and events, perpetuating the charge. This issue must be handled with care by us, as Arabs, to determine the motives. Who is behind this? Is there, for instance, a quarter that is not happy about the good and positive relations between the Arab states and the United States or between Iraq and the United States?

[Sadiq] Can you name that quarter to us?

[Hammadi] I believe that U.S. Zionism does not want any positive relations established between the Arab states and the United States in order to monopolize influence in that country. When we examine anything we must not forget Zionism, or its influence in the United States, or its influence on and incitement of problems concerning the Arab countries. I said and am saying to you now that there seems to be a desire to punish Iraq because it emerged victorious from the war.

[Sadiq] Do you believe such punishment is a U.S. desire?

[Hammadi] I do not know. It is a Zionist desire. It is clear, and I say without any reservation, that Zionism is the first to be annoyed by Iran's defeat.

[Sadiq] Some believe this U.S. stand toward Iraq is a kind of pacification of Iran, a kind of U.S. apology to Tehran for Washington's policy toward Tehran, in the hope good relations will be established between the two sides, even if that is at the expense of U.S.-Iraqi relations. What is your opinion?

[Hammadi] If that is true, it is regrettable. Some time ago we warned and talked many times about a desire of some states to establish areas of influence in Iran after the war. We know and understand this. But it is regrettable. If it is true, we are not against the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, or any country having

influence in Iran. But we will not accept such influence if it is at our expense. Those who are seeking to secure influence in Iran must do this in their own way, but not at our expense. They must look for another method.

[Sadiq] Regarding Iraqi-U.S. relations, resumed only 4 years ago, do you believe that the campaign against Iraq here will, in essence, affect the future of relations between Baghdad and Washington, especially as Shultz stated after your meeting with him: If Iraq continues to use chemical weapons, this could affect relations between the two countries?

[Hammadi] We must wait and see. If this is going to have an effect, as the United States says, it is something regrettable, which we do not want. We do not want bad relations with anyone, including the United States. But, of course, we must study, devote attention, and think about what has been said. Anyhow, this is for the future. Let us wait and see.

[Sadiq] But we see relations between Baghdad and Washington heading toward tension and worsening: Congress is considering submitting a plan to secure a decision to impose economic sanctions on Iraq. The United States has moved from imposing sanctions on Iran, as it used to claim, to working toward imposing sanctions on Iraq. What is your opinion?

[Hammadi] This is part of the campaign. We are astonished by the scale of this campaign. Is this really a case in which they have no evidence to offer? We wonder: What is the objective of a campaign of this scale against Iraq?

[Sadiq] What is your interpretation of the fact that the United States and its officials have made no reference to the use of chemical weapons by Iran?

[Hammadi] This is one of the things that prompt consideration and assessment. If the matter was something humanitarian and neutral, it would have taken another turn. This is now a serious issue which no one should talk about without evidence. If anyone wants to talk about it, he must talk about all cases and be neutral toward everyone. But this is not happening.

[Sadiq] So, we can say that the U.S. stand on this issue is not neutral?

[Hammadi] I believe that we must determine the reasons for this campaign.

[Sadiq] What is your interpretation of the U.S. position in defending [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talabani and his group and the U.S. Government's defense of human rights in this regard. How can you explain this U.S. stand?

[Hammadi] The issue is not to do with Jalal al-Talabani. One must study history. The Kurdish problem has always been used by numerous neighboring and foreign forces as a means to pressure and exhaust Iraq. The shah used it in the 1970's. The United States supplied the Kurds with arms via the shah in the early 1970's. This is recorded in congresional documents. The Kurdish card has long been used by the major countries and some states in the region to pressure Iraq whenever convenient. It has nothing to do with Jalal Talabani. He is of no value. In fact, the Kurdish question—Kurdish rebellion and disobedience, and the interest in keeping that rebellion alive to use as a card for pressure at the right time—is nothing new. Anyone studying history will find that all these things are linked.

[Sadiq] Regarding your meeting with Secretary Shultz on Thursday, what issues did you discuss with him besides the use of chemical weapons?

[Hammadi] We discussed and explained the important problems concerning the Geneva negotiations. I did not deal with the issue of chemical weapons as a primary topic. I discussed it at the end. But my U.S. visit was decided before the incident occurred. The important issues are the fundamental problems in the framework of current Geneva negotiations. We stressed the principle that, if we really want to end the war soundly, we must tackle the main problems that led to the outbreak of the war. Otherwise, we will not achieve peace.

[Sadiq] What were the main problems you specified?

[Hammadi] The problem of boundaries with Iran over the Shatt al-'Arab and the navigation problem. Moreover, the problem concerning implementation of Clause 6 of the Security Council's resolution to investigate the reasons and responsibility for the war. Such an investigation must be neutral and impartial and not involve any political motives unrelated to the issue.

[Sadiq] Recently there have been many reports and much talk to the effect that, as the war has ended, Iraq has begun to play a new role in Lebanon. Some reports say that Iraq may dispatch forces there to help some parties in the conflict. Could you comment on this and explain the present Iraqi stand on the Lebanese crisis and arrangements to hold the presidential elections there, as well as the Iraqi stand on the crisis there in the future? And are reports that Iraq is seeking to play a different role in Lebanon, meant to spite Damascus?

[Hammadi] I tell you frankly that I have nothing in my mind about this issue. In fact I did not expect to be asked about it. I do not want to plunge into it because I have no information on it. I would like to say that Iraq's stand toward Lebanon or any other Arab country will never change. It is based on noninterference in the affairs of any Arab country. All we want is for Lebanon to resolve its problem and be united and independent, and for others to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs. But I am actually not in a position to give an answer, because I am not familiar with the issue.

[Sadiq] Reports here say that the Iraq-Iran war and the U.S. position on it forced Iraq to adopt a less rigid stand regarding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and make concessions in this regard. What is your reply to those who are trying to distort the facts? And what would your position be if the PLO announced a Palestinian provisional government or a government-in-exile?

[Hammadi] We support what the PLO decides. With regard to the Palestinian cause, we adopt our stand within the framework of the Arab stand. We do not deviate from what the Arab countries decide. We support any stand the PLO takes, regardless of our opinion.

[Sadiq] What do you mean by: regardless of our opinion?

[Hammadi] I mean that we support the PLO. We do not claim that we must know the Palestinian problem better than the PLO. We do not give ourselves the right to speak, rightly or wrongly, about the PLO. We support any stand the PLO takes.

[Sadiq] What stage has Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation reached regarding an end to the Gulf war or the Iraq-Iran conflict?

[Hammadi] Relations between Iraq and Egypt are good and developing. Egypt's position on the war and Arab issues is positive. I believe relations are good and progressing.

WAKH Reports Khayrallah 15 Sep Press Conference

JN1509181188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Today, Iraq again denied strongly that its forces have used chemical weapons in their recent campaign to pursue the Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. At a press conference held here at noon today, Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, Iraq's deputy commander in chief and defense minister, said: The American campaign is unjustified and aimed at further pressuring Baghdad.

This is the first press conference by a senior Iraqi official to respond to the ongoing Western and American media campaign, accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Kurds before seeking refuge with Turkey. The U.S. Senate adopted a decision a few days ago imposing economic sanctions on Iraq because of what it described as the the collective annihilation campaign against the Kurds.

Answering a large number of questions by correspondents of news agencies and radio and televisión networks, the Iraqi defense minister said that the depth of the area of operations to pursue the Kurdish rebels does not allow the use of such weapons. He added: If we did this we would, despite the nature of the area, expose our forces to contamination. And this is impossible. This is in addition to the fact that the rebels are not an army or regular forces but are deployed in groups scattered in a border strip the width of which does not exceed 10 km. He called on the correspondents to visit northern Iraq to see the fact. He added that recent statistics show an increase in the number of the Kurds who returned to Iraq. He added that until this morning, over 20,000 Kurds returned.

In his answers to the journalists' questions, 'Adnan Khayrallah affirmed that the Iraqi Armed Forces were not compelled to use chemical weapons in the northern area in their recent operations. He refused to answer a question on Iraq's possession of such weapons. He said: The war still exists and has its own peculiarities—a matter which does not allow answering this. He said that Iraq's policy is based on opposing the local or external usage of these weapons. He stressed that Iraq does not deviate from this rule. He added: If an enemy comes to your house to strike you on the head will you throw flowers at him or hit him with what he deserves?

Answering a question on resettling the Kurds from the areas in the north, the Iraqi defense minister said: The resettlement is taking place according to a decision made by the Iraqi leadership. He added that the resettlement does not only include the Kurds, but all of Iraq. He gave an example by saying that the decision includes the Abu al-Khasib area which falls on the brink of Shatt al-'Arab to the south of Iraq. The decision also calls for building the new Basra city away from the present city. He said that annihilation means the killing of people, but what we are doing is resettling people in a more civilized, modern, and peaceful state wherever they are—in the north or south.

Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah ruled out that the Iraqi leadership is now considering breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States because of its anti-Iraq stand. He said: We have not reached that stage yet, but it remains a legitimate option.

The Iraqi defense minister welcomed the visit to Iraq by a number of UN experts provided this does not conflict with Iraq's national sovereignty. He said: The Turkish Government affirmed more than once its official viewpoint, denying that the Kurds were exposed to chemical weapons.

Khayrallah affirmed that Iraq does not live on U.S. aid. He added that if the U.S. boycott is applied it will do some harm, however, it will not obstruct Iraq's development. He said that Iraq should rely on the Arab brothers only. He expressed pleasure for Arab support to Iraq. He said: We are pleased with Arab consensus in this regard.

Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah ruled out the possibility of resuming the hostilities between Iraq and Iran in terms of the present conditions. However, he added that obstructing the ongoing efforts of the negotiations will lead to hostilities. However, he said, Iraq does not want hostilities.

The Iraqi media is continuing its protest campaign against the recent U.S. stand on Iraq. The Iraqi newspapers each day carry many articles and news accusing the U.S. Administration of being biased toward Iran. It is known that the Iraqi Forces accomplished on 5 September the 9-day operations of pursuing the Kurdish rebels.

The Iraqi defense minister said that the present situation on the front is in the interest of Iran, not Iraq. He said: What the Iranians want is a cease-fire, not a comprehensive peace agreement. He stressed that Iraq cannot accept the work according to the 1975 agreement again. He said: This agreement is behind us now. He called for a new agreement to guarantee a new formula for a lasting peace. He said: We believe that the Iranians or those who are giving them advice want to maintain the present state as it is. However Khayrallah affirmed that Iraq rejects this situation and warned against continuing it. He said: We have plenty of patience but this patience has logical limits.

The Iraqi defense minister apologized for not answering a question on Iraq's possession of [chemical] weapons. He said: Possessing these weapons is one thing and using them is something else. He added that Iraq is not the first to possess or use banned weapons. Many countries, including superpowers, have in their arsenals large quantities of chemical and biological weapons. He affirmed that the general rule is not to use these weapons. He said: Iraq goes by this rule. However, he asked: Why do major countries manufacture such kind of weapoons?

He added: Why has the U.S. senator [not further identified] not questioned his government for using the nuclear bombs against two peaceful cities? The Iraqi defense minister expressed conviction that the U.S. senator was involved or was given a written paper to create a media clamor. He noted that this media clamor falls within the framework of the ongoing maneuvers in the American presidential elections.

After listening to many questions on chemical weapons, the Iraqi defense minister said: Why did you not bring masks to protect yourselves from the poisonous gases before coming to the conference hall? He noted that he will answer all questions without hesitation.

The correspondents are scheduled to leave for the north tomorrow to visit the Kurdish families, which returned to Iraq, and to be acquainted with the situation in the Iraqi Kurdistan at the invitation of the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry.

Tehran KEYHAN Interviews Opposition Leader

PM0909141788 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Aug 88 p 18

["Exclusive" KEYHAN interview with one of Iraq's "militant clergy" and head of Islamic Amal, Sayyid Muhammad Taqi Modarrisi; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [KEYHAN] What does the future hold for the Islamic movement in Iraq in terms of the struggle against the Iraqi regime following the acceptance of Resolution 598?

[Modarrisi] The groups that make up the Islamic movement in Iraq have reached maturity during their struggle against the Saddam regime. But it is not as if the groups have not been present on the scene of the struggle before. The beginnings of the Islamic movement in Iraq go back to the 1920's.

In terms of the movement's future in Iraq, there will be a gap. The cease-fire lifts a huge load off the shoulders of the regime and after getting rid of this load which is the war, the regime will use the opportunity to crush the opposition. In this trend, we will see a series of crimes against the Iraqi people. The start of this chain of crimes can be seen in the regime's cruel and evil actions in the country's north.

We have to think of two points in this regard. One is that the world so far has been able to hide the crimes of the Saddam regime under the guise of war. Now that the war is over, the Islamic movement in Iraq can take this opportunity to unmask Saddam's face to the people of the world. The second is that the Islamic movement was waiting for a decisive victory over Iraq by the Islamic Republic. Now that this wish has not come true, the movement will continue its struggle to topple the regime in Iraq.

[KEYHAN] On what principle will the movement base its future actions?

[Modarrisi] Of course, the Islamic movement in Iraq has been weak up until now because it has limited itself to political means, and this is why it has not been able to do very much. In terms of military strength, this movement has an active presence and cannot be crushed. All the actions taken so far by the regime to destroy this movement have ended in failure. One must recall the explosion at the (Al-Dorah) refinery last week which caused a great deal of damage. So in the next stage we will plan our actions based on armed struggle inside Iraq.

[KEYHAN] Does this mean you will take your armed struggle into Iraq?

[Modarrisi] One hundred percent. We are determined to take our military and paramilitary forces into Iraq to continue our armed struggle. The war may be finished but our struggle against the Saddam regime continues.

[KEYHAN] Will you unite with the Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq in your struggle against the regime?

[Modarrisi] One perhaps cannot rely on unity with the Kurds in terms of Military strategy. Our Kurdish brothers' struggle in northern Iraq is fought in partisan fashion out of cities. The success rate in these types of wars is not too great. The modern technology that governments have at their disposal can easily crush this type of struggle. On the other hand, we are working on making people aware and provoking them into opposition against the regime.

[KEYHAN] Although the majority of the Iraqi population is Shi'ite, a large percentage of the people are Sunis and Kurds. What will you do in this regard?

[Modarkrisi] All the people in Iraq, despite their ethnic or religious backgrounds, are against the regime. They all are dissatisfied with the regime regardless of their ethnic or religious tendencies. They all are waiting for a spark to show their dissatisfaction with the regime. Despite this, during the struggles in the past, a bond was created between Shi'ite and Sunni. For example, a Sunni figher blew up the security police building in Baghdad in 1980 and Shaykh ('Abd al-Aziz al-Badri), one of the most prominent Sunni clerics, was martyred against British colonialism under the leadership of Mirza Taqi Shirazi.

[KEYHAN] How do you feel about SAIRI [Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq]? Do you think this body wil be able to adjust to post-war conditions?

[Modarrisi] Each movement is born out of special circumstances. SAIRI matched the conditions before Resolution 598. I feel there will have to be major changes made in SAIRI or a new organization has to be established to meet new conditions. For political reasons we have to introduce the Islamic movement to the peoples of the world because our future struggle has to be two-pronged—political and military. The political side is important to the Islamic movement in Iraq. While identifying the real face of the Iraqi regime to the world, the Islamic movement must present itself to the world as the alternative to the Ba'thist regime.

[KEYHAN] Several groups work within the framework of the Islamic movement in Iraq. There are some differences among them. Don't you think the new stage of the struggle will require unified ranks?

[Modarrisi] Serious thoughts are given to the unity of the groups within the movement. Meetings have been held among them and the question of unity is being considered very seriously. But the real problem of the Islamic movement in Iraq is not the differences. The real problem is that the regime has been trying to separate the people from this movement and up to a point it has been successful. At present, one must fill these gaps. There is strategic unity among the Muslim groups, even non-Muslim groups. [passage omitted]

Further Iranian Cease-Fire Violations Reported

JN1509201988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—The Iranian forces have continued their violations of the cease-fire decision despite Iraqi warnings.

The Iraqi Armed Forces have taken appropriate measures to face these new violations that were reported to the UN observer group.

In the I Army Corps sector, our units forced four enemy personnel, two of whom were carrying binoculars and a rifle, to retreat. At 1130 [0730 GMT) on 13 September, four men attempted to advance toward one of our positions. At 1215 the same day, the UN observers saw two vehicles, one of which was a landcruiser with five persons, driving toward our units. Our units forced the enemy personnel to retreat. Our units in the same sector informed the UN observers that the enemy set up a machinegun within its position.

In the Special I Army Corps sector, an enemy pickup of the Land Cruiser type with four persons attempted to approach our forward positions at 1217 on 13 September.

Between 0830 and 0930 on 14 September, the enemy brought an infantry regiment to the Hoseynabad area and began distributing its units along the enemy barriers opposite our barriers in clear violation of cease-fire regulations. On 13 September, a UN observer patrol saw two Iranian soldiers and a personnel shelter opposite our forward units. The observers decided to remove the two soldiers because it was not proven that they had had a patrol or an observation point there. They also decided to remove the shelter because it is regarded as a cease-fire violation. The UN observers also noted the presence of Iranian soldiers opposite one of our positions. The enemy established nine new positions opposite our positions and the UN oservers noted these violations.

In the II Army Corps sector, a UN observer patrol at 0930 on 14 September saw four enemy men digging a sniper position 300 meters from our forward positions.

At 1745 on 13 September, eight enemy men were seen erecting an SPG-9 gun opposite our positions. At 1600, the enemy pitched six tents 300 meters from our forward positions. The enemy men were forced to retreat and the UN observers were told of these violations and they noted them.

In the III Army Corps sector, a UN observer patrol at 1000 on 13 September saw an enemy bulldozer constructing a left-side hard shoulder for a road opposite our units. At 1845, a number of enemy men were seen approaching enemy barriers. They were warned and were forced to retreat behind the barrier. At the same time, the enemy placed a machine gun opposite our positions.

On 14 September, the enemy positioned a DSHK machinegun on their barrier. At 1100 on 13 September, five enemy troops approached one of our forward positions and were forced to retreat.

At 2125 the enemy flooded the area before one of our formations. The water flow continued toward some of our forward positions. The head of UN observers in this sector was informed of this frank violation and was asked to pressure the Iranian side to stop pumping water against our forces in an act that violates the cease-fire.

In the IV Army Corps sector, at 0800 on 13 September, a new elevation was witnessed in the enemy tower facing one of our units. The tower reached a level of 28 meters after it was 25 meters before. At 0650 three groups of enemy infantry troops were seen training in front of our positions. Also, at 0730 another five groups of infantry were seen. Decisive measures were taken to force members of these groups to retreat.

At 1830 on 13 September, in the V Army Corps sector, an enemy tank was seen about 50 meters from the borders.

In the VI Army Corps sector, at 0835 on 13 September, three vehicles and a shovel [preceding word in English] were seen on a carrier. At 0850 on 14 September, our forward posts saw a boat carrying four enemy troops.

In the VII Army Corps sector, an enemy engineering activity to open a road parallel to the eastern bank of Shatt al-'Arab was observed. At 0855 on 14 September, an enemy boat appeared at the Qarun river's mouth at Shatt al-'Arab and necessary measures to force it to retreat were taken. Also, at 1027 on 14 September, our units saw an enemy helicopter in the area opposite them.

Paper Criticizes Iranian Stand at Negotiations

JN1309114288 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 13, INA—An Iraqi paper has advised Iran to remove the obstacle it was placing in the way of Geneva negotiations, otherwise, the negotiation would not progress and Iran would be responsible for putting peace at risk, the paper said.

AL-JUMHURIYAH mentioned in a leading article today that Iran should not shrug off the responsibility of exploring arrangements and mutual obligations to arrive at a clear-cut and documented agreement.

The daily summed up Iran's obligations toward Iraq as: Firstly, documented acknowledgement by Iran of Iraq's right to free navigation in the Arab Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and secondly, recognizing the significance of clearing Shatt al-'Arab waterway by the UN and fixing a date to start soon operations for that end.

By eluding these two obligations, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper said, the Iranian negotiator proved his bad intention and unwillingness to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace based on solid bases. It also indicated the Iranian negotiator's bid to empty Resolution 598 of its content and to turn the peace process into a transitional settlement based on vague, violable bases, AL-JUMHURIYAH remarked. "The peace process seems like a trap into which the Iranian side is entangled," the paper added.

Domestic struggle and conflict in Iran were reflected in the Geneva negotiations, promoting the Iranian negotiator to act in a mentality of blackmail and seizing gains, the daily remarked. After two weeks of negotiations, the paper noted, it had become obvious that the Iranian negotiator had no leniency whatsoever to take the negotiations out of the bottleneck.

AL-JUMHURIYAH called upon Iran to remember that effecting a ceasefire was only a step along the paths of peace and that this step was made possible only by Iraq's initiative, which was declared in President Saddam Husayn's message of last August.

Paper Lauds Arab Stand on U.S. Senate Action

JN1509103388 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 15, INA—An Iraqi paper has hailed the Arab stand in solidarity with Iraq, saying this stand has laid down the sound foundation for a comprehensive pan-Arab resurgence.

AL-THAWRAH daily said here today that the Arab League's council's denunciation of the American-Zionist campaign and the solidarity it expressed with Iraq, added to it the stand in support of Iraq declared by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic, Qatar and Bahrain, posed an important qualitative move in contemporary Arab life.

The daily mentioned that the stance declared by the above-mentioned Arab countries in denunciation of the American Knesset's resolution further consolidated bonds of joint Arab action, a thing which would enable the Arab nation to encounter challenges and dangers facing it and threatening its existence.

The historical Iraqi victory had laid down the sound basis for a new Arab state after years of deterioration, distintegration and absence of Arab solidarity, AL-THAWRAH noted. "Iraq has full confidence that this postive, healthy Arab state would continue and be consolidated over years, as it is one of the fruits of Iraqi victory," AL-THAWRAH remarked.

The swift Arab response to the historical Iraqi victory and the solidarity expressed by the Arabs with Iraq in its courageous confrontation of the American-Zionist campaign took American and Zionist circles by surprise and confused their calculations and malicious plots, AL-THAWRAH paper said.

The Arab stance, whether on the official or popular level, represented an important turning point in the current Arab situation and an outstanding indicator of the Arab nation's wakefulness and determination to stand up to the American resolution and to frustrate all mean attempts to outflank the Iraqi victory and to contain the positive atmosphere it (the victory) produced into the Arab area, AL-THAWRAH daily added.

Iraq embodied in its defensive war the essence of the nation's struggle, will and power to encounter the foes and foil their aggressive conspiratorial plots, AL-THAWRAH stressed. The declared clear-cut Arab stance, the Iraqi daily added, expressed indignation of the Arab nation and its condemnation of the Zionist media campaign.

The U.S. Senate's resolution, the paper mentioned, aimed, among other things, at obstructing negotiations and reducing opportunities available to reach a firmly-established, full and comprehensive agreement.

All attempts by American imperialists and Zionism international to lessen great Iraqi victory, AL-THAWRAH mentioned, would not change Iraq's principled and firm stance toward the issue of establishing permanent, just and comprehensive peace and would not divert attention of the international community from the mounting Palestinian revolution and crimes committed by the Zionist authorities in the occupied Arab land.

Any fair observer of the fabricated fuss and the resolution passed by the U.S. Senate against Iraq could easily find out that this fuss and the resolution aimed at camouflaging the valiant incessant uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Arab territories, to place pressure on and interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq and to disturb progress of Iraq-Iran Geneva direct negotiations, AL-THAWRAH stressed.

The paper pointed out that impartial international parties, like Turkey, and competent world organizations refuted and dismissed Zionist-American allegations and slanders against Iraq, stressing unequivocally that Iraq used no chemical weapons, AL-THAWRAH noted.

"Facts are coming more and more into light to expose to the international community and world public opinion dimensions of the hectic campaign and its mean, evil purposes against Iraq," AL-THAWRAH reiterated.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Cited on 'Allegations'

JN1509110288 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 15, INA—Iraq would never ever forgive those who had intentionally and unjustly done it harm, AL-JUMHURIYAH paper stressed.

In an editorial published here today, the Iraqi paper said American-Zionist allegations hostile to Iraq inflamed latent anger of the Arabs, anger that they felt against anti-Arabs U.S. (?policy).

The counter-campaign by the Arabs indicated the lofty status enjoyed by Iraq among his Arab brethren and the latters' keenness to repulse the unjust American-Zionist campaign, AL-JUMHURIYAH said. The American-Zionist campaign recalled America's disgraceful stands in support of Zionism, stands aimed at doing harm to the Arabs and curbing their legitimate aspirations, the paper mentioned.

The American-Zionist campaign helped the Arabs to know better their foes and to make sure that America "is still antagonistic to the Arabs," AL-JUMHURIYAH reiterated.

Peres Returns From UK; Denies Meeting Husayn

TA1609063188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher repeated to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres her opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and to a PLO government-in-exile. Our correspondent Meron Tzur interviewed Mr Peres upon his return from London early this morning:

[Begin recording] [Peres] First, Mrs Thatcher rejects the establishment of a separate Palestinian state; she believes that such a state cannot exist. She is firmly against recognizing a PLO government-in-exile, if such a government is indeed established. King Husayn voiced his views to Mrs Thatcher, and she received the impression that the main reason for the king's decision to change his policy was the Arab summit in Algiers. The king has not withdrawn from the peace process.

We share two problems with Jordan: one is the joint border and the issue of peace along this border; the second is whether Jordan will fulfill any role in the solution of the Palestinian problem. Both we and Jordan must decide what to do regarding our joint relations—we cannot avoid this issue.

[Tzur] While in London, did you meet with Jordanian representatives—perhaps even the king himself—regarding this issue?

[Peres] No.

[Tzur] Did you exchange messages with King Husayn through Mrs Thatcher?

[Peres] You are beginning to interrogate me...

[Tzur, interrupting] I am only asking.

[Peres] You are asking, and I said what I had to say.

[Tzur] Mr Peres, during your stay in London the French foreign minister met with Yasir 'Arafat. What do you have to say about this in your capacity as Israeli foreign minister?

[Peres] I want to express my regret over this meeting. I cannot see who stood to gain from such a meeting. I fail to see what Mr Dumas gained; neither can I see what the cause of peace gained from this meeting. This was just another one of those illusions created when people meet with 'Arafat.

[Tzur] Abie Nathan also met with 'Arafat in Tunis and Strasbourg. What do you have to say about this meeting and about Nathan's peace plan?

[Peres] Abie Nathan is a unique phenomenon in the Israeli scene, and his actions are regarded in a special way. I do not believe, however, that Nathan's meeting with 'Arafat will bring peace.

[Tzur] Mr Peres, while you were in London, Prime Minister Shamir was in Hungary. Yesterday he remarked that Hungarian-Israeli relations may be upgraded to full diplomatic relations. How do you regard this issue?

[Peres] I hope the day will come when we will have diplomatic relations with all the countries of East Europe. I believe that we will establish relations with other East European countries, at first on a low level and later on on a higher level. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 16 September carries a similar interview with Peres on his return from London. Asked about his meeting with the British Labor Party leader, Peres says that "Kinnock told me that his party will make a real effort so the Parliament of Europe will approve the protocols between Israel and the Common Market. He has declared himself as well against the government-in-exile as as gesture that leads to nowhere, and he has supported our demand for a clear and loud position on the part of the Arabs in favor of peace."]

Shamir Returns From Official Visit to Hungary

Holds News Conference

TA1509190588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir landed a short while ago at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from Hungary. Right now he is holding a news conference at the VIP lounge. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar is attending the conference. Here are some of the prime minister's remarks:

[Begin Shamir recording] Good evening. This was a short visit. It lasted about 24 hours. Yet I can say that the brevity of the visit does not reflect its quality. It was the first time that I, or any Israeli prime minister for that matter, visited the Hungarian capital. I met with the Hungarian leaders: the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and the foreign minister. The visit consisted of two parts: the political part, which included political discussions with the country's heads; and the Jewish part, which was very exciting. I met with the remnants of the great Hungarian Jewish community. These remnants are not small in number, they number almost 100,000. This is still only 10 percent of what it was before the Holocaust.

As for the political part, due to the outstanding personality of the Hungarian prime minister, his open and sharp mind coupled with his familiarity with the issues under discussion, and his unusual closeness to the USSR

leaders, we were able to analyze together, thoroughly, and in detail, the relationship between Israel and the Soviet Union in particular, and Israel's relations with the socialist bloc as a whole. We mainly discussed all aspects related to the Jews. Our main subject was, naturally, the issue of the Soviet Jews' aliyah.

Of course we discussed the Soviet position in the Middle East. We reviewed the conflicts between the two blocs, with Israel in the middle. I expressed the Israeli position against the backdrop of that international state of affairs. We reviewed the situation in the Middle East, the USSR position, the current Israeli position, and the various conflicts.

We had a very open dialogue, and I would add that the Hungarian prime minister was very sympathetic and friendly. His remarks were peppered with many stories of discussions he had held with his good friend Gorbachev. He quoted him extensively, and this provided us with insights into the Soviet world. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 15 September adds that "the prime minister referred to other matters as well. For example, he mentioned 'Arafat's meeting with the French foreign minister. Shamir said that the French behavior is damaging. We did not expect that from Mitterrand. Nonetheless, said Shamir, this does not prove that he represents the general trend in Europe."

Jerusalem Domestic in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 15 September adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir disclosed that his Hungarian counterpart told him not to be surprised should new developments evolve in the positions of the East European countries concerning ties with Israel.

"The Hungarian prime minister also said he will report to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev about his talks with Shamir. Upon his return from Hungary, Mr Shamir said that he heard in Budapest that the Hungarian Government does not object to Hungarian Jews emigrating to Israel."]

Rejects Hungarian Mediation

TA1609084088 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Li'at Limor, Oron Me'iri, and Victor Levi in London]

[Excerpt] During his visit to Budapest, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected Hungarian initiatives to mediate between Israel and the PLO.

In political talks with Shamir, Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz and other government leaders called for direct contacts between Israel and the PLO. The Hungarian leaders expressed their support for 'Arafat and his organization, and tried to convince the prime minister that there has been a moderation in 'Arafat's political outlook, and that he is now prepared in principle to recognize Israel's right to exist. Shamir categorically rejected all the proposals. [passage omitted]

'Secret Talks' With Mozambique Under Way

TA1609065388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Israel will receive from the United States an additional $600,000 for its participation in establishing an irrigation project in Marxist Mozambique in southwest Africa. Our correspondent in Washington Shim'on Schiffer reports that this sum comes in addition to the $5 million Israel receives from the United States for development projects in developing countries. This sum was agreed upon in talks with Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir. Israel has no diplomatic relations with Mozambique, but secret talks have been going on with this African country for over a year.

Early next month, Israel and the United States will hold talks in Jerusalem on their international cooperation. During these talks the United States will decide the budget for joint action with Israel in Third World countries.

Arafat's European Trip 'Step' in Right Direction

TA1509175388 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Sep 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "'Arafat's Visit to the European Parliament—A New Palestinian Success"]

[Text] Finally, in the wake of the desperate efforts exerted by Jewish organizations around the world, particularly in France, as well as pressure by Israel, to prevent the Palestinian leader Mr Yasir 'Arafat from visiting Strasbourg, the PLO chairman arrived in that French town amid a reception and media interest enjoyed by only a few world leaders.

With the arrival of the Palestinian leader at one of the most important international and European institutions, Europe took another step toward solving the Middle East problem. In listening to his presentation of the Palestinian position regarding the ongoing conflict in the Middle East region, and his affirmation of the sincere Palestinian desire to establish peace on the land of the three revealed religions, and after the failure of efforts to prevent the visit, Europe took another step in the right direction by inviting the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to attend the European Parliament conference, and by listening to the views of those involved in the Middle East problem.

This, after the world had refused for a long time to listen to the viewpoint of our people regarding their cause. The exclusion and ignoring of our people over the many years

of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been the major factor in the failure of all initiatives and plans put forward to resolve the Middle East problem.

Mr 'Arafat's visit to Strasbourg clearly reflects the European community's growing understanding of the reality and parties to the conflict in the Middle East region. This is the outcome of the failure and defeat of all alternative options, and the failure of all attempts and conspiracies seeking to obliterate the identity of our people, and circumvent their legitimate leadership. This visit also reflects the EEC states' conviction that our people are the crucial factor in the Middle East equation, and cannot under any circumstances be bypassed.

While we bless the visit of the Palestinian leader to the European Parliament, as well as his meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas; the president of the European Parliament; the Greek foreign minister; and EC Commissioner Claude Cheysson, we call on the European countries in general, and France in particular, to liberate themselves from the biased American positions that are hostile to our people's rights. Furthermore, we call upon these countries to adopt positions exerting more pressure on Israel and the United States to recognize the legitimate rights of our people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

Moreover, we call on the United States to refrain from shutting its eyes to the facts, and rather to address them. We call on America to deal with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and to admit that there is no option other than the Palestinian option for achieving a just peace and stability in the region.

Rabin: 'Arafat Speech Shows 'Nothing Changed'

TA1609070088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that 'Arafat's speech before the European Parliament proves that nothing has changed in the PLO; it has not given up its basic demands to which Israel will never be able to agree. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Minister Rabin said in Haifa that only someone who desires to commit suicide could agree to the partition plan and to permit the Palestinians to return, and Israel has no such intention.

Mr Rabin does not regard Syria as a partner to negotiations at present, because Damascus will not make such a move before scoring a military achievement. Minister Rabin also believes that King Husayn is incapable of a significant political move. Rabin added that the Palestinians in the territories will eventually come to realize that nothing good will come from the PLO, and they will crawl back to King Husayn.

U.S., Israeli Rejection of 'Rights' Examined

TA1509184088 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 Sep 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Clear Speech"]

[Text] In the speech that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat delivered at the European Parliament in Strasbourg 2 days ago, he affirmed the resolve of our Palestinian people to achieve a comprehensive and just peace through all UN resolutions, including the two resolutions repeated in all political statements—242 and 338. Since it is these two resolutions that comprise the basic facade of all allegations by both the United States and Israel on devising any future negotiating formula between the parties concerned, brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] put forward another option similar to the option of "all resolutions."

This stipulates the possibility of accepting Resolutions 242 and 338 on condition that the national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination, are acknowledged.

The U.S. Administration and Israeli Government's rejection of these rights eliminates any possibility of dealing with Resolutions 242 and 338. As long as the Reagan administration and the Israeli coalition government reject prior recognition of our people's right to self-determination, how can any party expect the PLO to accept these two resolutions?

The U.S.-Israeli rejection, reiterated in all previous stages as well as in the present stage marked by deep political changes, reveals the prior intent of the United States and Israel to eradicate all national Palestinian rights under all circumstances. This is what has prevented, and will continue to prevent the PLO from unconditionally accepting these 2 resolutions.

Yasir 'Arafat's speech at the European Parliament was clear, frank, and decisive in this context. It affirmed before the largest European assembly, as well as before the public opinion of the entire world, including in Israel and the United States, that the Palestinian option and its essence—the independent Palestinian state that will be established in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip—is now the only option for ensuring peace and stability in the whole region.

Meeting of Reagan, Foreign Ministers Previewed

TA1509172588 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Sep 88 pp 1 8

[Editorial: "The U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli Meeting"]

[Text] How can the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli meeting, expected to be held on 26 September, advance the peace process when the Reagan administration, which will vacate the White House in less than 2 months, does not, for all its political "momentum," go beyond the plan of

its secretary of state, George Shultz? At the same time, the Israeli coalition government has not even been able to accept the Shultz plan, which is rejected by the PLO, in the first place.

If the Egyptian position has been clear and unambiguous in its support for the national rights of our Palestinian people, as well as in its continuing affirmation of definite PLO participation in the proposed talks to resolve the Palestinian problem on the premise that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, does this meeting between the three sides conform with this sincere Egyptian position?

The Israeli newspaper HADASHOT reported 2 days ago that U.S. President Ronald Reagan apparently wants to issue a dramatic statement, signed by Washington in addition to the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers, that would commit the governments of the United States, Egypt, and Israel to move, within the coming few weeks, to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and resolve the Palestinian problem. This, however, is totally unrealistic. Is it logical to believe that such a statement, if it is issued, can bring pressure to bear on the next Israeli Government following the 12th Knesset elections on 1 November?

It would have been possible for the Reagan administration to launch a dialogue with the PLO, or affirm, on its part at least, the PLO's right to participate in the proposed political negotiations. Yet this administration is still running around in the same circle, not realizing the strategic dimension of the Palestinian figure's significance in the region's equations, and not seriously attempting to absorb the deep changes that have occurred and continue to occur in the region since the end of last year.

Playing a role in the game of U.S. and Israeli elections, both of which will be held in November, does have its weight in this context. But we affirm to all parties that our Palestinian cause, which is the cause of a comprehensive and just peace in the entire region, is not a banner for electioneering, propaganda, or consumption that will be folded once the elections are over. We also affirm that the U.S. Administration's responsibility for the need to support this cause is clear in accordance with UN resolutions. Otherwise, all statements, proclamations, and initiatives have neither value nor meaning.

Rabin Praises New Judaea and Samaria Formation

TA1609060688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin says Palestinians in the territories are still trying to achieve through violence and disturbances goals which the Arab armies were unable to achieve through war. Rabin's words were contained in a letter to officers and men of the new Judaea and Samaria IDF formation. Its establishment was marked last night at a ceremony in Jerusalem. Rabin praised the formation, saying the soldiers had done a good job in bringing calm to the territory.

The chief of staff, General Dan Shomron, said he was sure the formation will continue to accomplish its tasks, the first of which is to keep law and order in the territories.

Alignment, CRM Sign Surplus Votes Agreement

TA1609082888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The Alignment and the Citizens Rights Movement have signed a surplus votes agreement. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan proposed a similar agreement to the Center-Shinuy Movement.

Aircraft Industry Unveils New 'Impact' Drone

TA1509161388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Sep 88 p 5

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] Yesterday the Israel Aircraft Industry [IAI] unveiled a new remotely piloted vehicle [RPV] capable of long range flight of a duration of approximately 12 hours. The RPV carries sophisticated equipment.

The new RPV, dubbed the Impact, is now undergoing a series of test flights. It was developed by the Unmanned Aircraft plant, a new unit established by the IAI as part of the reorganization which followed the cancellation of the Lavi fighter aircraft.

The Impact's total weight is about 500 kg. It can carry up to 75 kg of equipment, including a television camera, a night vision system coupled with a television camera, and other systems.

As mentioned, the new RPV can perform photography and intelligence tasks at very long ranges. Recently developed navigational aids can be added to the Impact to achieve long-range ability.

Several types of land stations have been developed to enable control of the Impact. One of these is a mobile station enabling operation under field conditions. The Impact belongs to a group of long-range RPV's planned to carry out a variety of intelligence tasks behind enemy lines.

Israel is one of the most advanced countries in the world in the sphere of unmanned aircraft production. The IDF has achieved success in incorporating RPV's, as well as the Pioneer system, [a previously introduced RPV system] in its operations. The Pioneer, which was developed by the RPV company—owned jointly by the IAI and Tadiran—is also used by the U.S. Navy.

Lahd To Set Up Police Force in S. Lebanon

TA1509194988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpts] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, this week began the task of setting up a police force in the security zone. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the inhabitants of southern Lebanon have seen no policemen in over 6 years.

[Hecht] Establishing a police force in southern Lebanon is no simple task, since Lebanon and law are mutually exclusive. The Lebanese legal code is nothing but a network of feeble recommendations. For instance, no licensing of either vehicles or drivers exists in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

In the first phase, six police stations will be set up in southern Lebanon. These will be manned by 100 policemen. The recruits will come from among the Lebanese gendarmerie, they will wear Lebanon's uniforms, and act according to Lebanese standards.

The new police officers' first task will be drug enforcement. Several local strongmen have recently increased their drug-trafficking activities, and the amounts exchanged in heroin and hashish deals is constantly increasing.

The Lebanese gendarmes' basic salary will be provided by Beirut, while General Lahd's budget will serve to cover the cost of living increments resulting from the inflation in Lebanon.

IDF Allots Budget for S. Lebanon Security Zone

TA1509175588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The IDF's Civil Administration will be alloted $4 million out of the defense budget for use in the security zone in southern Lebanon. This amount is 20 percent higher than last year's budget. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht remarks that about 50 percent of the budget will be used to maintain the two hospitals established by the IDF in southern Lebanon, and the remainder will cover civilian aid—mainly education and road construction costs. Some 200,000 inhabitants currently live in the security zone.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

IDF Gunfire Wounds 6

TA1509183888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Six Arabs were reported injured by Army fire in clashes with soldiers in the territories. Four were injured in Nabulus and another two in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Al-Shati'. Steve Rodan has the story:

The most serious clash took place around noon in Nabulus. Arab sources say tax inspectors from the Civil Administration raided store the downtown district. They checked whether store owners had paid their taxes. Those who didn't had their stores shut down. Within minutes the Palestinian activists arrived and the stones began flying.

Israeli soldiers accompanying the tax inspectors chased the stone throwers into the casbah marketplace. Some of the stone throwers were caught and beaten. Then the soldiers were pelted with stones from all directions. Military sources say the commander of the unit gave the order to fire. The Army spokesman says three Arabs were injured. Arab sources say four Palestinians were injured, one of them was admitted to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus in critical condition with a bullet in his chest.

Clashes erupted as well in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians in the Al-Shati' refugee camp threw stones at soldiers. The Army responded with live fire and two residents were wounded. The Army spokesman says he cannot confirm the report, but the spokesman did acknowledge some of the Arab reports on the killing of an 11-year old boy in Gaza City last night. The spokesman said Rami Abu Samra was shot by soldiers as he was standing at the entrance to a mosque.

The spokesman said the soldiers were firing in the direction of an Arab assailant who had just hurled a firebomb at the unit's commander, but the soldiers did not enter the mosque. Stone throwing was reported throughout the Gaza Strip as well as in Judaea and Samaria, but there was no heeding of the call by Palestinian communique no. 25 to attack so-called collaborators of Israel. So far, 12 suspected collaborators have been killed in the 9-month old uprising.

2 Gazans Shot by IDF

TA1609055388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Curfews were imposed this morning on the refugee camps of Al-Shati', Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, Khan Yunus, and Al-Burayj in the Gaza Strip. Security forces said the measure was to prevent unrest to commemorate Sabra and Shatila day tomorrow.

Two Gaza residents were injured last night by Army gunfire. Military sources told reporter Steve Rodan that at about 2000, some masked men attacked an Army patrol in Gaza City. The attackers hurled firebombs and wielded iron clubs. The soldiers opened fire, hitting one man in the chest and another in the leg. Two other attackers were caught and arrested. None of the soldiers was injured.

A resident of the village of Yamun near Nabulus was stabbed yesterday evening and taken to hospital for treatment. Arab sources said the 54-year-old man was suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Molotov Cocktail in Jerusalem

TA1609084288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown near Herod's Gate in Jerusalem last night. There were no injuries and no damage was caused.

A van belonging to a villager from 'Isawiyah, east of Mount Scopus, was burned last night.

Casualty Toll Updated

TA1509163188 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 15 Sep 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Sunday, 11 September, the 279th day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported a total of 203 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure does not include people killed by settlers' gunfire or other causes.

According to the HA'OLAM HAZE count, the casualty toll until Tuesday, 13 September, the 281st day of the intifada, totals 280.

Palestinian sources, however, report 366 dead, broken down as follows:

—235 killed by IDF and settler gunfire.

—33 dead from beating and electrocution.

—63 dead by gas inhalation.

—35 dead from other causes.

PLO's 'Abbas Arrives for Joint Committee Talks

JN1509183488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Amman—Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, arrived in Amman this evening to head the Palestinian side in the meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee to support the kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories. 'Abbas said his visit to Jordan is part of the joint cooperation to follow the work and activities of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee. Mahmud 'Abbas is accompanied by 'Isam Kamil. He was received at the airport by Dr Ahmad Qatanani, director of Palestian Affairs Department [at the Foreign Ministry]; 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and PLO representative in Amman; and 'Umar Sa'd al-Din al-Khatib, director of the PLO office in Jordan.

U.S. Motives 'Suspect' in Criticism of Iraq

JN1509071988 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Sanctimonious Power Play"]

[Text] The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have confirmed that there is no evidence that chemical weapons have been used by Iraq against the Kurds in the north of Iraq. In this light, Washington's motives in accusing Iraq of the deployment of chemical weapons against the Kurds becomes suspect—and suspicion looms larger when it is considered that these denials follow the Turkish government's confirmation that it saw no evidence or trace of chemical weapons having been used against the Kurds. Would it not have been more prudent for Washington to have waited for the results of a thorough investigation of these allegations before taking such a strong stand against Baghdad?

What intrigues us even more in this sudden and abrupt U.S. interest in chemical weapons, is its contrast with past indifference. Charges that such weapons were used throughout the Gulf evoked no such response from the U.S. In this context, we are gratified to note that Iraq has reaffirmed its commitment to respect and honour the 1925 Geneva convention that bans the use of chemical weapons. No such commitment was forthcoming from Iran, yet there was no outcry from the U.S. when Tehran was caught using chemical weapons. Is it possible that the timing of the rekindled American interest in the charges against Iraq has more to do with the ongoing power struggle in Iran than with the legal and humanitarian dimensions of the 1925 convention? Is it far-fetched to presume that Washington is now interested in building bridges with Iran, and in tipping the scale of the power struggle in Tehran in favour of those forces which are considered to be moderate and pro-Western? To be sure, we have no reason to meddle in such an American policy, provided, that is, that this rapprochement is not conducted at the expense of Iraq and its reputation.

AL-RA'Y on Hungarian 'Promises' to Shamir

JN1609083088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Sep 88 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "An Israeli Onslaught Within the Socialist Bloc"]

[Text] Shamir ended his official visit to Budapest yesterday. It was his first visit to Hungary since the 1967 war. What draws attention is that Israeli propaganda organs hastened to praise the results of the visit, summing it up in two important events: The first is the Hungarian officials' promise to change their country's policy toward Israel, and the second is the Hungarian foreign minister's promise to seek "further" socialist bloc support for Israel. If these two events take place, it will be extremely serious, especially since Israel is escalating hostile practices against the Palestinian people's uprising and perpetrating crimes worse than those of the Nazis against the Hungarian people in World War II. It might be useful to ask if the Hungarian officials' promise to change their policy toward Israel signals the imminent resumption of diplomatic relations between both sides. This would be a blessing of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, who daily offer sacrifices on their land. It might be useful to ask if the Hungarian foreign minister's promise to seek "further" socialist bloc support for Israel means that Budapest has accepted the role of a Trojan horse within this bloc.

The Arabs have not forgotten that the socialist states hastened to sever diplomatic relations with Israel after the latter's aggression on the Arab nation in 1967. Moreover, they have not forgotten that this bloc has strongly supported Arab rights and adopted positive stands toward them. Therefore, the winds of transformation Shamir says will blow from Budapest are a phenomenon that cannot be ignored. It is an alarm the Arabs should consider, especially since the reasons that prompted socialist states to adopt their firm stand toward Israel have not changed. Moreover, Israeli intransigence on the Palestinian people's right to regain their land and determine their future has intensified. This intransigence is now joined by organized terrorism throughout occupied Palestinian territory. Consequently, Arabs must confront the Israeli onslaught on the lines of friendship they set up with the socialist countries. They must also hold urgent contacts with Budapest to know what is being propagated by Israeli organs on the promises the Hungarian officials made to Shamir.

Hostages Offered for 'Positive' U.S. Stance

NC1509201088 Paris AFP in English 2001 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 15 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) said Thursday it was willing to release four hostages, including three Americans, it was holding in exchange for a "positive" U.S. attitude on the Palestinian issue. The statement was made in a handwritten message delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut and accompanied by colour photographs of Jesse Turner and Alan Steen, two U.S. university professors who were kidnapped in January 1987.

"If our initiative is to bear fruits, the United States must clearly adopt within a week a positive attitude towards the rights of our (Palestinian) people," the statement said. It underlined the group's "intention to solve the hostage affair."

Mr Steen and Mr Turner were among a group of four professors seized in January 1987 from the Beirut University campus in mostly Moslem West Beirut. The other two hostages are U.S. citizen Robert Polhill and Mithileswhar Singh, an Indian with permanent U.S. residency status. A total of 14 foreigners are held in Lebanon by groups believed to have close ties to Iran.

On Monday, another group released West German businessman Rudolf Cordes after holding him in Lebanon for 20 months. Bonn has thanked both Syria and Iran for their efforts in obtaining his release.

Beirut Reports Release Offer

NC1609060388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement to some newspapers last night. The statement was accompanied by instant color photographs of U.S. hostages Jesse Turner and Alan Steen, professors at Beirut University who were kidnapped on 24 January 1987. The organization declared its intention to embark on a positive initiative to solve the hostage issue provided the U.S. Administration adopts a clear-cut positive stand on the Palestinian people's rights compatible with its claims in defense of human rights and democracy.

The organization set a period of 1 week as of yesterday, 15 September, after which it will be prepared to forge ahead with this initiative.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Algerian Envoy, Message

NC1509113888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Today, Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lama', Foreign Ministry secretary general, received the new Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, Khaled al-Hasnawi, who is on a protocol visit. They then proceeded to Bikfiyya, where the Algerian ambassador presented his credentials to President al-Jumayyil. The Algerian ambassador handed Al-Jumayyil a message from Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid during the meeting. The Algerian ambassador had conveyed a similar message to Acting Prime Minister al-Huss yesterday. Khaled al-Hasnawi noted that the message urges Lebanese officials to hold elections by the specific constitutional deadline. It also stresses the need to end the crisis in Lebanon, overcome difficulties, and adopt historic positions.

Telephones Benjedid

NC1609061188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid. They pursued what had been discussed between President al-Jumayyil and Algeria's new Ambassador Khaled Hasnawi, when the latter presented his credentials.

London Paper Interviews Candidate Raymond Iddih

PM1609081988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic15 Sep 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Raymond Iddih to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Will Abolish Militias Once I Am Elected and Will Invite Al-Asad To Visit Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] Paris, exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It has been decided to elect a new president for the Republic of Lebanon on 22 September to succeed current president Amin al-Jumayyil.

But some Lebanese deputies and constitutional experts emphasize that the Chamber of Deputies could in fact have convened as of 13 September without a call from the chamber's speaker to elect a president for the republic. Among those is National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih, the most prominent presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

Iddih believes that Lebanon today is witnessing the most dangerous stage of its political life. If the chamber fails to elect the long-awaited president, then Lebanon will disappear as a united state and then fall to Cypriotization, about which Iddih has warned since 1974. Because Iddih is more popular and controversial than other candidates, some emphasize that Lebanon will rise up only under Iddih.

In contrast, there is another group of people in Lebanon who say that Iddih's famous conditions do not seem to be set by someone who seeks the presidency: "If Washington moves Israel out of Lebanon," says Iddih. And if he is able to unify the Lebanese Army; and if he is able to withdraw the Syrian Army from Lebanon; and if all militias are abolished, and light and heavy arms are collected from the militias, citizens, and strangers.

If all these conditions were fulfilled, for what would Iddih deserve the credit?

In reply to the question, Iddih says: Because of my firm stand and preconditions I will have liberated Lebanon from the Israeli occupation. And if the Israeli Army departs from my country's territory, I will, because of my stands, have convinced the United States to implement Resolution 425—the greatest service I could ever provide for Lebanon, the Lebanese, and the Arabs who want Lebanon to return as a sovereign, free, independent, and united state.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Mr Iddih, let us discuss the Syrian stand toward you. We ask you to explain this position precisely, as you previously announced that the Lebanese must work to move the Syrian Army out of Lebanon—which means that you consider the presence of this army in Lebanon illegitimate. Then later you said that the presence of the Syrian Army was legitimate. How can you explain this to us?

[Iddih] At the beginning of June 1976 the Syrian Army entered Lebanese territory and reached Beirut. That was in response to a request from the Phalangist Party which sought aid from that army. I recall that it was Dr George Sa'adah, now Phalangist Party leader, and Karim Paqraduni, now Lebanese Forces deputy chairman, who negotiated with Damascus and sought aid from the Syrian Army in the name of the Phalangist Party, which was about to lose the first Al-Jabal battle against Kamal Junblatt's forces and his Lebanese and Palestinian allies.

In June 1976 I called on the Lebanese people to consider 1 June the first day of Lebanese resistance against the Syrian regime. But as two successive Arab summits were held in Riyadh and Cairo in October 1976; and as the Arab kings and leaders decided to set up an Arab deterrent force including Syrian forces in Lebanon; and since these forces were placed at the disposal of the president of the Republic, Ilyas Sarkis, and under a Lebanese officer, namely Staff Major General Ahmad al-Haj, the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon has become legitimate. Since the Israeli Army invaded Lebanon 5 March 1978—violating the truce agreement between Lebanon and Israel in 1949—and since the Israeli Army continued to stay in Lebanon—violating Security Council Resolution 425, I said that the invasion constitutes military occupation that is both illegitimate and unacceptable. Since the beginning of the year I have reiterated that there is an Israeli occupation in Lebanon and a legitimate military presence; and there is a big difference between occupation and a legitimate presence.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Thank you once again for this clarification. But, in turn, we would like to know when, how, and why you will ask the Syrian Army to withdraw if you are elected president of the republic.

[Iddih] When the Israeli Army is removed from Lebanon, and when the Lebanese Army is cleaned up and unified, I will have one thing to do, namely abolish all the military militias and collect all types of arms from citizens and strangers. Since such an operation must be 100 percent Lebanese, I will ask Syria to withdraw its army from Lebanon, since we cannot abolish the militias and collect arms in the presence of the Syrian Army.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Define for us what the relationship between Lebanon and Syria would be under you if you are elected president? Would Syria be a friend or a neighbor, or both? Or Would you maintain distinct relations with it as a sisterly state?

[Iddih] Relations between Syria and Lebanon have always been distinct: Syria and Lebanon are the only two Arab states whose relations are not governed by embassies or diplomatic circles. Syria and Lebanon are the only two Arab states that have not subjected their citizens' movement to passports or entry visas. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Since you say that after you are elected president of the Republic you will visit the capitals of the major countries; and since you will hold negotiations with these states on the Lebanese question, will you visit Damascus after you are elected?

[Iddih] It is known that both President Ilyas Sarkis and President Amin al-Jumayyil have visited President Hafiz al-Asad several times over the past 12 years; it is President al-Asad's turn to visit Lebanon. He will then see for himself how he will be received as president of a sisterly state. I will not forget that President al-Asad met with me for 4 and ½ hours at the presidential palace in Damascus when I visited him in 1973 to ask him to open the borders between the two countries, secure freedom of international transit via Syrian territory, and reduce charges on the movement of Syrians from Syria to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Cedar Guardians Leader Announces Candidacy

NC1509190688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Etienne Saqr, alias Abu Arz, leader of the Guardians of the Cedar Party, sent a letter to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today, in which he informed him he was formally nominating himself for the post of president.

Abu Arz has announced that when he arrived at Mansur Palace [seat of the Chamber of Deputies] to submit his letter to Speaker al-Husayni, he noticed the presence of eight suspect characters who had stationed themselves at the entrance. It transpired they were elements of the Syrian intelligence service in the guise of journalists. Saqr described this phenomenon as a new feature of Syrian democracy and added these suspect persons are

doubtless present in order to watch the movements of deputies, spy on them, and suggest that they are constantly under the eye of the Syrians.

Dastmalchiyan Visits Hizballah Headquarters

NC1509184088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchiyan has visited the Hizballah headquarters and met with Hizballah leaders. According to a statement released by the embassy, the ambassador said serious work is necessary to unify Islamic forces and resources in the face of the general challenges confronting the Muslims in Lebanon. Within this context, the ambassador emphasized the importance of effecting a reconciliation between Hizballah and the Amal Movement.

'9 February' Claims Anti-Syrian Attacks

NC1609064388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi forces of the 9 February Organization have claimed responsibility for an explosion at 2110 last night near a Syrian occupation forces post in the vicinity of the Bristol Hotel. Policeman Nabil al-Haj of Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss' guard and a number of Syrian soldiers guarding the hotel were wounded, a Lada car with license plate number 320493 belonging to Mustafa Sa'd al-Din was destroyed, and heavy material damage was caused.

The 9 February Organization has also claimed responsibility for the following operations: detonating an explosive charge targeted against a Syrian checkpoint in the Cola Roundabout; wounding five soldiers of the Syrian occupation forces; detonating a charge near a Syrian occupation forces checkpoint in Al-Bastah al-Tahtah; wounding three Syrian soldiers; detonating an explosive charge against a Syrian post and checkpoint in Burj al-Mur at midnight last night; and killinjg one Syrian soldier and wounding two others.

Talas Inspects Fortifications Near Security Zone

NC1509183888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas today inspected the Syrian forces in Rashayya al-Wadi in western Al-Biqa'. He met with officers and soldiers and visited fortifications and bunkers in the area, which is approximately 15 km from the security zone.

Al-Huss Announces Summer Time to End 15 Oct

NC1509195788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has issued a memorandum announcing that summer time will end at midnight on 15 October 1988.

AFP: Lebanese Forces Start 2d TV Channel

NC1509114488 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 15 (AFP)-The Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) launched a French- and English-language television channel to complement an earlier Arabic-language program, the network's director said here. The Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation's (LBC) new channel will broadcast programs focusing on U.S. and foreign serial and situation-comedy reruns, LBC Director Pierre Daher said late Wednesday.

It is to broadcast for 34 hours a week to an area covering most of Lebanon's coastal region and part of the mountains, he said. The new programs are to include sports, children's shows, feature films from the United States, Britain and France, and relay of the American Cable News Network's newscasts, he added.

The half-English-half-French programs will be viewed by a third of the Lebanese population, Mr. Daher said. LBC's Arabic-language channel, launched in August 1985, can also be viewed in neighboring countries and in Cyprus.

TISHRIN Cited on Israeli Leaders' Remarks

JN1409094788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 sep 88

[Text] Under the headline "The Enemy Provocations," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Hardly a single day passes without the Israeli enemy leaders making a series of provocative statements against Syria. The day before yesterday, Shamir, Rabin, and (Saig) made statements to the effect that Syria constitutes the most serious danger to Israel, that Israel knows how to acclimate itself to this situation and to any new situation, and that the Israeli Army is ready to take action at the appropriate time.

The paper stresses that these Zionist provocations cannot be separated from the suspect moves in the region, whether on the level of the arbitrary repression of the occupied homeland's uprising or the feverish attempts to obstruct the Lebanese presidential elections and push Lebanon into the abyss. It is known that the Palestinian uprising is next in line in the course of confrontation and steadfastness, which is led by Syria and is a practical reply to the advocates of defeatism, capitulation, and negotiations with the enemy.

The Zionist enemy, which is mobilizing all its resources to quell the raging Palestinian revolution, is strongly concerned that this revolution will entrench in the world public's conscience the just Palestine question and the legitimate Palestinian rights to a homeland, a state, and an honorable and free life. The Zionist enemy is also concerned over the possibility of the collapse of the suspect calls for recognizing Israel—a recognition that constitutes in itself a denial of any Palestinian demand.

Paper Warns 'Isolationist Group' Over Session

JN1509093988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH deals with the issue of holding presidential elections in Lebanon after the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies set 22 September as the date for the new session. AL-BA'TH affirms that the Lebanese presidential elections are an important, fateful issue in this fraternal country's current serious phase. The isolationist group will not be allowed to consider the elections a poker game governed by narrow individual interests.

It is time for this isolated minority to realize that the only way for Lebanon to emerge from the abnormal situation is through national accord and a national solution acceptable to all parties. Such a solution will secure justice and equality and ensure Lebanon's unity, affiliation, and the right to liberate its territory from Israeli occupation as well as its hope to reform the political system to fill the gaps through which enemies can enter Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: He who wants to prevent Lebanon falling into traps or from gloomy prospects should give the Chamber of Deputies—the legitimate authority and one of the genuine establishments of Lebanon's unity—the opportunity to freely elect a Lebanese president from among the candidates. The methods used to restrict the deputies' freedom and prevent them from carrying out their constitutional duties are illegal and conflict with the will of most Lebanese citizens.

Those who previously pursued such methods and obstructed the first session are responsible for the developments which have occurred since 12 August. They will also be fully responsible if they again resort to their illegal methods and use violence to prevent the deputies from carrying out their constitutional and national duties or if they prevent the Chamber of Deputies from meeting—considering current difficult circumstances in Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Air Force Commander on Pakistani Allegations

LD1509172088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Major General 'Abdul Qadir Agha, Air Force and air defense commander, in reply to a question form a BAKHTAR military correspondent concerning the allegations by Pakistani authorities that Afghan aircraft are intruding into Pakistan, stated: According to recent information, Pakistan and Western radio stations have broadcast news about an airspace violation and the downing of three Afghan planes in Pakistani territory. It should be pointed out that, in pursuing and observing the items enshrined in the Geneva accords, our aircraft only carry out routine flights inside Afghan territory from time to time to accompany convoys and to rebuff attacks by armed extremists who, in order to continue the war, are being armed and equipped in Pakistan, and enter Afghanistan. Reports that have been broadcast by Pakistani and Western radios are groundless and irresponsible claims that have been going on for some years now.

There is undeniable objective evidence that since the conclusion of the Geneva accords, the Pakistani side has committed more than 468 violations which have been registered in 82 protests notes to the UNGOMAP [UN Good OFfices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] by the Afghan Foreign Ministry. Trampling on all international norms, they and [words indistinct] of Afghanistan's goodwill concerning the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan, have (?embarked upon such allegations) in order to divert international public opinion at a time when the Nonaligned Movement was meeting in Nicosia.

Airspace violations by Afghanistan and the downing of three Afghan aircraft in Pakistani territory are among those puzzles about which so far are not (?real). At this moment, all flight (?equipment), in particular all Afghan aircraft, are in [words indistinct], in the country's airfields and garrisons. Therefore, the recent claim by Pakistan has been (?considered far from the truth) and I, as the person responsible for the country's Air Force and air defense, resolutely reject (the claim). It is hoped that the Pakistani authorities will refrain from such irresponsible actions and (?meet their obligations) in observing the articles enshrined in the Geneva accords.

82d Memorandum Handed Over to UN Mission

LD1509203588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] coordination office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that the 82d memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan on [word indistinct] cases of violation by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords was today handed to the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul.

The memorandum requests that the violation should be assessed in accordance with Article 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and the result presented to the Republic of Afghanistan and to the envoy of the UN secretary general.

'Abdul Wakil Evaluates Nicosia Forum

LD1509224188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpts] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, returned home this morning after taking part in the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in Nicosia and after paying a working visit to India.

The foreign affairs minister and his accompanying delegation were welcomed at Kabul international Airport by Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal affairs; the deputy foreign minister; the head of protocol; and a number of high-ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry.

On arrival at Kabul International Airport, he answered a question from a BAKHTAR correspondent on the result of the foreign ministers conference and the activities of the Afghan delegation at this conference:

As our compatriots know, some time ago a delegation from the Republic of Afghanistan went to Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, to attend the foreign ministers conference of the countries which are members of the Nonaligned Movement. [passage omitted]

During the meetings that I had with a number of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries, all of them stressed the fact that the Geneva accords have provided a principled and safe path for a political solution to the situation in and around Afghanistan, and that the accords should be implemented with full honesty. It should also be mentioned that a large number of the participants in their speeches at this conference welcomed the Geneva accords and expressed their profound wishes that they should be fully implemented without deviation, because these accords are capable of ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan and in this Asian region. [passage omitted]

UN's Cordovez Urges Convening 'Grand Assembly'

BK1509162388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative on a settlement in Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, has urged the Afghans to waste no time in convening a Loya Jirgah [grand assembly] with all segments of society particpating in order to settle the conflict in the country.

In an interview with the APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] in New York, he said the time for a solution is running out and the alternative is a tragedy that has already lasted too long.

Pakistan Mediating in Release of Soviet POW's

LD1509101988 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0951 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, September 15 (TANJUG)—The Soviet Union and Afghanistan's mujahidin are engaged, through Pakistan's mediation, in indirect negotiations on setting Soviet war prisoners free, the Peshawar daily FRONTIERS POST wrote today, referring to its "reliable sources" in Islamabad.

According to this item of information, Pakistani representatives have already transmitted to the Soviet Union conditions set by the mujahidin for a release of Soviet war prisoners. Still unknown is what conditions are involved, but already known from before is the the insurgents are going—in exchange for the freedom of Soviet troops taken prisoner during the eight-year-long war in Afghanistan—to insist on having a major number of their followers released from the Kabul regime jalis and on some political concessions as well.

Pakistan is alleged to have, through its Moscow-based ambassador, promised the Soviet Union "all the aid needed" in a release of Soviet war prisoners from insurgent camps. At the same time, however, Islamabad has again rejected Soviet claims that a number of such prisoners is to be found on its territory, in some of "refugee camps." Islamabad claims that all the Soviet war prisoners are to be found in prisons on the "liberated territory" in Afghanistan.

At the time, the Soviet Union officially announced that 311 troops of the "limited contingent" which interviewed in Afghanistan in 1979 are listed as "missing in action." The mujahidin have not yet made known how many war prisoners they have in fact, but their total is surely supposed to be considerably lower.

'Extremist Groups' 'Crushed'; Weapons Captured

LD1509215788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Twenty-one criminal extremists hiding near Konduz were arrested yesterday by the Armed Forces. According to another report, 20 criminals were crushed and another 10 injured during another operation by the Armed Forces. A launching unit for surface-to-air missiles of the [words indistinct], type, a mortar, and three light machineguns were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of operations by the Armed Forces, extremist groups in Paghman District were crushed yesterday. During this operation, which was carried out in (Dara-e Zargar), (Cheshm-e Bolbol) and (Safidan) villages, 27 subversive elements were crushed and another 10 were injured. As a result of yesterday's operation, a rocket-propelled missile, 2 recoilless guns, a mortar, 3 rocket launchers, and 15 light machineguns were eliminated [words indistinct].

Another report from Qandahar says that as a result of blows by the Armed Forces a six-man group of saboteurs was crushed, and seven rocket-propelled missiles, one DShK, and several light weapons were destroyed.

According to a BIA military section report, a quantity of explosives placed in a bag by extremists of the Gulbuddin band was discovered yesterday. It was intended to explode in Jalalabad flour market, but the attempt was foiled in time by the country's security forces.

Mujahidin Seize Badakhshan Region HQ

BK1609024288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin in Afghanistan have captured Keshem, a district headquarters in Badakhshan Province. The mujahidin also captured 21 security posts in the region. A large quantity of ammunition was seized during the operation. The reports say that all activities of the Kabul administration have been concentrated in the Feyzabad town after the fall of Keshem headquarters. Badakhshan Province shares a border with the Soviet Union.

Reports of fighting were also received from Pol-e Khomri region of Farah Province. The mujahidin killed 28 Kabul soldiers in a clash in the region and destroyed four tanks as well.

Mujahidin Official on Soviet Withdrawal

JN1509163688 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 4

[Interview with Najiullah, foreign minister of "the provisional government of the mujahidin of Afghanistan" by Nidal Mansur in Kuwait—date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] How do you assess the present state of affairs in Afghanistan?

[Najiullah] I dare say jihad in Afghanistan has triumphed and that we are on the verge of setting up Islamic rule there. It is also fair to say that the Russian Army has been defeated by the blows of the mujahidin. The positions evacuated by the Russians are now either fully controlled or besieged by the mujahidin. The war is now about large cities; Kabul, for instance, is now encircled by the mujahidin, with the Russian Army lacking security even in their barracks. The rest of the cities that have been evacuated by the Russians are about to fall to the mujahidin any minute now. Indeed, some of them have already fallen, for instance the captials of Qandahar, Takhar, and Bamian Provinces.

[Mansur] Do you think the Soviet Army is serious about withdrawing from Afghanistan?

[Najiullah] We think they are and expect them to be out even before the date scheduled for their pullout. The Russians cannot possibly go back on their decision to pull out. This is because the decision to withdraw was not made according to the Geneva accords but as a result of military defeat. Further, if they should decide to go back on their decision they would incur more human and economic losses.

[Mansur] How do you envisage the situation after the Soviet withdrawal is completed?

[Najiullah] I believe the present government will collapse before or immediately after the Soviets complete their pullout. It will not be possible for it to stay longer, as it lacks the minimum requirements of survival and popular support. Nor does the government have any army to defend it. Their recruits were rounded up from streets and forced into joining the Army. Otherwise, why have over 25,000 soldiers joined the ranks of the mujahidin since the Geneva accords?

[Mansur] How do you explain your close relationship with the United States despite its hostility toward Muslims around the world?

[Najiullah] We have never had a direct relationship with the United States since jihad began in Afghanistan. Whatever aid we received came via the Pakistani Government.

[Mansur] But news reports and television networks have carried news and pictures of meetings between Afghan leaders and President Reagan, proving the point.

[Najiullah] Meetings did take place with President Reagan but not on the initiative of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Holy Warriors. They were more in the nature of personal meetings with certain factions.

[Mansur] But these leaders represent a trend within the alliance.

[Najiullah] We are not saying that some factions of the mujahidin are not pro-American. But this is not to say that we are coordinating with the United States.

[Mansur] Can you specify these factions by name?

[Najiullah] There is no need to name them, as now we represent the alliance. It can be said that the pro-Western slant of these factions is due to their leaders' tendencies. However, there are officials whose sympathies are not pro-Western. We have well-defined policies. Take, for instance, the Palestinian cause which, as we have said on more than one occasion, we fully support. We are aware that the United States supports Israel. Had we taken the same attitude as that of the United States, we would not have supported jihad in Palestine, or viewed the Palestinian cause as ours.

[Mansur] If this is so, what have you done on behalf of the Palestinian cause, and what is the state of your relations with the PLO?

[Najiullah] Rather than support the mujahidin who are seeking to end occupation, the PLO backed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and still does. Nonetheless, we do not allow ourselves to be swayed by this PLO position. The Palestine cause is our cause and the liberation of Jerusalem is a pan-Islamic responsibility. I would stress here that should the opportunity arise, we would not spare ourselves for the sake of liberating Jerusalem. The problem we are encountering is that the states neighboring Israel have closed the border and we are therefore denied the opportunity to fight for liberating Palestine.

[Mansur] And what is your position on the Palestinian uprising?

[Najiullah] we think the Palestinian uprising was caused by the Islamic reawakening that has swept the entire Muslim world. As far as we are concerned, the blessed uprising is the proper path for liberating Jerusalem. We think that only by raising the banner of jihad and involving Muslim peoples can Jerusalem be liberated.

[Mansur] How has the departure of Ziaul Haq affected the mujahidin in Afghanistan?

[Najiullah] Ziaul Haq's martyrdom is an irreparable loss to the Islamic world and particularly to the Afghan mujahidin. He stood by the mujahidin and backed the jihad under very difficult circumstances. Things will however not change after him, as the present Pakistani Administration will pursue the same line and continue to assist the mujahidin, at least until the country's general elections. And even after the elections—whether the political parties are allowed to contest it or not—there will not be a major change in the upcoming government's policies. This is because every politician who has Pakistan's interests at heart knows that the Afghan mujahidin are in a frontline position defending Pakistan.

[Mansur] Has your interim government been accorded any recognition? And have you sought any country's recognition?

[Najiullah] The basic work of the mujahidin government will begin after it establishes itself inside Afghanistan, when we expect to be recognized by many of the countries that helped us during our jihad, like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, as well as other Islamic nations. I just hope Muslim countries will take the initiative and recognize

the mujahidin government, rather than wait to take their cue from our enemies. I expect recognition by the Western nations and the United States.

India

Gandhi Comments on Press Defamation Bill Issue

BK1609034988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The prime minister has criticized the Assam government for not implementing the rehabilitation schemes for the flood-affected people in the state. Addressing a press conference in Guwahati yesterday, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the center will not allow the state government to politicize the flood issue. He, however, praised the working of the relief camps in spite of the various constraints. The prime minister added that barring a few complaints about distribution of relief, the entire operation was satisfactory.

On the defamation bill, the prime minister said there were at present some complications involving dropping the bill. He called upon journalists not to make a prestige issue out of holding a dialogue on the disputed clauses in the bill and said he has an open mind on the issue. However, the arguments put forth so far were not strong enough for the government to withdraw the bill, Mr Gandhi added.

He said the government had climbed down and stalled the passage of the bill. Now it was the turn of the press to respond to the government's offer of holding a dialogue. The prime minister said he was open to being convinced on any disputed clause in the bill. Mr Gandhi said the bill was not intended to muzzle or control the press in any way.

'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab 14-15 Sep

BK1509131288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab terrorists have shot dead five persons in separate incidents since last night. In Faridkot District terrorists shot dead two persons this morning. Three others were killed in Bhatinda, Amritsar, and Gurdaspur Districts.

A self-styled area commander of the so-called Khalistan Commando Force, Surinder Singh alias Chinta, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Ferozepore District this morning. A Chinese assault rifle and some ammunition were recovered from him. Security forces have arrested seven terrorists and their harborers.

3 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK1609031288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab terrorists gunned down three persons in a village in Gurdaspur District last night. An official spokesman said two terrorists intruded into a house and shot dead a farmer and two of his relatives.

Briefs

Solar Energy-Operated TV Transmitter

In Himachal Pradesh a very low-power transmitter was inaugurated on Monday [12 September]. This is the first television transmitter in the tribal area of Lahaul Valley. The union minister of state for food and civil supplies, Mr Sukh Ram, switched on the transmitter at Kyelang. It operates on solar energy. It is the 7th transmitter in Himachal Pradesh and the 261st in the country. It will cover most of the villages in the Lahaul Valley. [Text] [*BK1509050488 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 88*]

Iran

Khamene'i Accuses Iraq of 'Blackmail' at Talks

LD1609105388 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 16, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today accused Iraq of trying to blackmail Iran in the peace talks being held to end eight years of bloody hostilities between the two neigboring countries.

"Under the auspices of the peace talks, Iraq wants to blackmail (Iran) and intends to accomplish the vain ambitions and demands with which it initiated the war," he told a huge gathering of Muslim worshippers at Friday prayers here.

At this stage, he added, the Iraqi regime feels that it should, in some way or the other, create obstructions and procrastinate the peace negotiations.

Iran-Iraq peace talks which officially began in Geneva Aug. 25, were halted on Sept. 13 and are scheduled to continue in New York under direct supervision of the U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council.

The progress of the talks were halted two days after face-to-face negotiations started between the foreign ministers of the two countries at Geneva's the Palais des Nations, the reason being Iraq's raising of some preconditions.

Iraq wants the clearing of the Arvand River and access to free shipping in the Persian Gulf before the progress of the peace talks. Iran says these conditions should not be set forth at this stage of the talks but they could be considered later.

"The world has now realised the Iraqi regime's illegitimate and unprincipled intentions and this is an achievement for the Islamic Republic," the president told tens of thousands of devout Iranians crowding the Tehran University campus and nearby streets to hold Friday prayers.

President Khamene'i who is also leader of Friday prayers in Tehran, said further on the same subject, that Iraq's resort to "these illegitimate and unacceptable demands"

He said Iran's intention was to achieve real peace but not at the cost of "submission to force."

President Khamene'i reaffirmed that Iran had accepted a request by the U.N. secretary general to continue the peace talks in New York and "we have declared that all the articles of the (Security Council) Resolution 598 must be implemented in sequence."

The first article of the resolution, he said, is ceasefire and troop withdrawals to the internationally-recognized borders, adding that this withdrawal must take place "definitely and properly" otherwise, he stressed, the resolution would be violated.

He described Iraq's attempt to violate the contents of the U.N. resolution as "bullying."

President Khamene'i made it clear that the prolongation of the peace talks would never cause Iran to overlook other articles of the Security Council resolution.

He said the Islamic Republic will continue its "honest efforts" for the achievement of a "durable peace" and that within the framework of the Resolution 598, "we are ready for any cooperation."

In the opinion of the president, the breach of the Aug. 20 ceasefire by the Iraqi side was not "unlikely" because he considered Iraq as a "crafty and war-mongering" regime. He said Iraq has already proved its disrespect for all international laws.

But he said the Iranian nation, including the Army and the Sepah (the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps) were prepared and serious to give Iraq a "firm and decisive" response "in case of a new mischief" by the Baghdad government.

On the reason that despatch of voluntary forces to the war fronts was still continuing despite the Aug. 20 ceasefire which is apparently holding, the president said Iraq was adding to "insecurity and concern" each day and therefore, "our people are right to be worried and always regard themselves at war."

He said as long as Iraq continues its wrong policy, "the war fronts will remain loaded with forces and the people are fully prepared to defend their cause."

Velayati Views Geneva Talks at Roundtable Talks

NC1509174488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Political roundtable discussion with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; Ja'far Mahallati, permanent representative at the United Nations; and Morteza Sarmadi, director general of the Public Relations Office and spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran on 15 September—recorded]

[Text] [Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to you, dear viewers and esteemed compatriots. I pray for the success of each one of you dear ones. As you see, the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation to the Geneva talks, headed by Dr Velayati, returned this morning. We therefore arranged today's roundtable on the Geneva talks. I ask your permission to introduce the participants of this program briefly: our brother Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister; Mr Ja'far Mahallati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's envoy and permanent representative at the United Nations in New York; and our brother Mr Morteza Sarmadi, director general of public relations and Foreign Ministry spokesman.

I welcome you dear brothers, and I thank you all for accepting our invitation only a few hours after returning to Tehran. Dr Velayati, as regards the Geneva talks, I would like to ask you an introductory question so that we may proceed with the program. The precondition laid down by Iraq in these talks became a major issue. The Western media also referred to this issue extensively as one that may affect the progress of the negotiations and force the talks to a stalemate. Could you please comment on this development? Will Iraq continue to insist on this precondition and, on principle, how do you view the future of the talks?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the esteemed viewers. I would like to say that the 3-week Geneva talks were rather slow and, to a certain extent, complicated. They were characterized by numerous factors that distinguish them from the first round of talks in New York. We cannot use the term deadlock here. None of the three parties—that is, Iran, Iraq, and the UN secretary general—has used the word deadlock in connection with the talks, and the fact is that the talks have not reached an impasse. In Geneva, such talks are usually protracted and require immense patience, perseverance, and restraint.

The Iraqis insisted on placing the precondition concerning the dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway—in our terminology the Arvand River—and the freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf on a level with the issue of the cease-fire. This was unacceptable to us, not because

we are opposed to the dredging of the Arvand River or to the freedom of navigation, but because it was untimely and inappropriate at that stage of the talks. That is why we opposed it.

I can say that we made tangible progress in the Geneva talks. However, it is not as if we were saying that since the resolution has eight clauses, each round of talks should be on one clause. This would not be a proper approach to the resolution. Instead, we should see the overall situation and the direction it is going in. Will it go backward, will it stay where it is, or will it proceed? Our final assessment is that the trend is to proceed, and even if one of the parties desired to retrogress or return, we would say that that is unacceptable.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, in your remarks you mentioned two Iraqi preconditions—the dredging of the Arvand River and the freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf. Could you please tell us about these preconditions in general? Does Iran oppose the clearing the Arvand River? Does it believe that shipping in the Persian Gulf should be under Iranian supervision? Could you please clarify the situation for our viewers?

[Velayati] Iraq claims that the two countries should benefit equally from the cease-fire. Iran has numerous ports on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and it can easily use these ports to gain access to the world from free waters. Iraq says it has only one waterway. This is not true, as we have already pointed out in interviews. Iraq says that its only waterway to the outside world is the Arvand River, and if a cease-fire takes place and Iraq is unable to use this waterway while Iran can avail itself of its ports on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman then it means that the two countries are not benefiting equally from the cease-fire.

Our reply was that, first, the Iraqis have vast oil reserves. There are many countries in the world which do not have any oil. So why do they not share their resources with other countries of the world? Obviously, they will not do any such thing, because the God-given resources of all countries are different. It all depends on what is appropriate and this is not the time to discuss these things. This means that if we see what possibilities we have and if ours are greater we should give some to Iraq. Such utterances are fallacious and illogical.

However, as regards the use of the Arvand River, this is not the proper time to discuss its dredging. The resolution states that the withdrawal of troops should take place without any delay, immediately after the cease-fire. Well, 2 to 3 weeks have passed and there has been no withdrawal. Resolution No 598 clearly specifies the withdrawal, but makes no mention of the clearing of the Arvand River, or any insistence on its being cleared prior to the withdrawal. In the talks with the Iraqi foreign minister I told him that this is his (?interpretation), as they have ignored what is clearly stated and have digressed to peripheral issues. We are in favor of dredging or discussing the dredging but not at the same time as the cease-fire. It should be discussed at the proper time.

Second, there are some principles involved in this. Whenever you wish to initiate a discussion on dredging, you should mention it in the context of the pertinent regulations; otherwise, it is unacceptable to us. The regulations are stipulated in the 1975 agreement. You know that this agreement, signed in Baghdad in June 1975, had some protocols added to it. One of them was signed in December of that year and deals solely with the question of clearing the Arvand River, or Shatt al-'Arab waterway, and shipping there. If it is agreed upon that dredging should take place, it should be done within the terms of those rules and regulations.

However, as regards the Persian Gulf, we completely concur with the principle of freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf, but Iraq is asking for and seeking to obtain more than it is entitled to. They did not say so very clearly but we understood what they were trying to get at by the signs. It transpired that our conjecture was correct. They are endeavoring to grab more and more. If we had agreed to go along with it, Iran's rights in the Persian Gulf would have been jeopardized. Our views in this regard can be stated as follows: freedom of shipping, both in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz on the basis of international laws. They are terrified of the mere mention of international laws.

[Afshar] I thank you, Dr Velayati. Mr Mahallati, as regards Resolution No 598, some of the clauses require the cooperation of both sides—that is, of Iran and Iraq—for their implementation, for example the return to international borders by troops, and the exchange of POW's. However, some of the clauses do not require the participation of either side and their implementation is the responsibility of the secretary general and the United Nations. One of these is the establishment of a committee to identify the aggressor. In view of the fact that the UN secretary general is responsible for this, why is the implementation of these clauses not proceeding?

[Mahallati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to our dear viewers. I thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak. I want to note that this point was the focus of attention for us and the UN secretary general form the beginning, and still is. During the official Security Council session when the secretary general officially announced the date of withdrawal, he made it very clear that when the cease-fire began, the preliminaries for the implementation of Clauses 4, 6, and 7 of the resolution would be initiated by the secretary general himself.

Clause 4 deals with the resolution of all the differences between the two countries; Clause 6, as you know, pertains to the commencement of the work of the committee to identify the aggressor, and Clause 7 concerns an assessment of the losses, an estimate of their extent,

and the issue of reconstruction. However, it was agreed upon in discussions between us and the secretary general that work should commence on the issue of POW's, as we give high priority to the return of our fighters who are being held prisoner, as we have always done.

Iraqi obstructionism hampered the UN secretary general's work on these preliminary points. This does not mean that we have given them up. They are going to be focal and principled points in our talks with the UN secretary general, the Security Council, and with the UN members in general.

[Afshar] Thank you, Mr Mahallati. Mr Sarmadi, what is clear is that international organizations such as the United Nations are not seeking to implement justice, but are simply mediating and acting as arbitrators. As regards the talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not laid down any preconditions and has said that it will abide by the UN secretary general's views. But you have seen that iraq has laid down preconditions. In view of the fact that the United Nations, as I mentioned to you, is seeking to mediate and be an arbitrator, is it possible that due to Iraqi preconditions the Islamic Republic of Iran's rights may be jeopardized?

[Sarmadi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Salutations to our respected viewers. I wish to state that we have different methods of discussion, and the talks on the implementation of Resolution 598 are of a special kind. First of all, Iraqi attempts to lay down preconditions have not been successful so far. If you remember, in New York Iraq insisted on face-to-face talks on a cease-fire and as you saw, it was not successful. International pressure forced Iraq to accept the cease-fire first. In the Geneva talks, the framework is very clear; that is, the implementation of Resolution 598, the UN secretary general's plan, and his activity for the implementation of this resolution.

On principle, laying down preconditions in these talks cannot be interpreted as a point of superiority or strength for one side. It is tantamount to deviation from the implementation of the resolution. You see that the Iraqi precondition was not compatible with what the UN secretary general had specified as the agenda of this session. The secretary general had announced the agenda in the same first session. He said that framework of our agenda is the resolution and its implementation plan. With our concurrence, the secretary general favored a timetable for the implementation of the clauses. The Iraqi preconditions impeded this plan for the implementation of the resolution.

This means that its preconditions hampered the implementation of the resolution. In view of the way that Iraq had been insisting on its implementation during in the past year, and the international community's opinion that this resolution must definitely be implemented, the preconditions did not give a good impression of Iraq. Instead, they accentuated Iraqi obstructionism and its search for pretexts. As you have seen, even as regards the decision on the next venue for the talks, Iraq began another series of preconditions and opposition, which had no effect. This shows that this trend may be considered a digression from the implementation of the resolution in international opinion, not an action that would assist in its implementation. Incidentally, the Islamic Republic of Iran is acting precisely within the specified framework, stressing the agenda and its stipulations. Therefore, it does not accept Iraqi preconditions. In fact, on principle there is no room for such preconditions in this kind of discussion, and they appear illogical...

[Mahallati, interrupting] I wish to say that this game which you mentioned is well recognized, and was noticed by the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation. I remember it was mentioned to the UN secretary general prior to the Geneva talks, that is, if these talks take place, we will adopt another mode of discussion.

Second, the resolution was adopted a year ago. If you look at the curve of the Islamic Republic of Iran's attitude as regards this resolution in the past year and look at the Iraqi curve, you will see that the Iranian curve is unwavering and clear, and Iraq's will appear broken, wavy, like a zigzag [preceding word in English]. Naturally, the unwavering line indicates a clear and sincere attitude as befits the international prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we tried to preserve this attitude in the talks.

[Velayati] Another point which I would like to make is that every precondition, every attempt to create obstacles gives no credit to the party doing this. We endeavored to move, as I mentioned, within the recognized and accepted framework. It was stated by one of the media that the Islamic Republic of Iran's statements are well within the confines of international regulations and laws. If one side creates obstacles and does not act within the proper limits, making utterances which are beyond reason and what is acceptable in the world, it will eventually weaken its own position.

For example, regarding the recent proposal of the UN secretary general that the third round of talks be held in New York, Iraq clearly stated it would not go to New York. The Iraqis did not stop to think whether they would be able to stick by what they said and resist the proposal, or whether they would obtain any credit by not going to New York. If the talks cannot continue in Geneva, or even if a third place is suggested, common sense dictates that first a person should take stock of the possibilities and his own abilities and then make claims or statements. They categorically stated that they would not go to New York and, within a few days, they were forced to retract their words. Now they have announced they will go to New York. Thus you can see how this conduct only serves to degrade the party concerned. It does not have any other effect.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, one of the Iraqi preconditions, according to you, is Iraq's reneging on the issue of the Arvand River. If the trend of the discussions continues—and the UN secretary general has said that neither of the parties, that is, neither Iran nor Iraq should raise the Arvand River issue at present, as this is not the time for it—then the day will come when substantive matters will have to be discussed. Then Iraq will again put forward its demands as it is doing now. What will the Islamic Republic of Iran's position be?

[Velayati] Yes. As you see, the secretary general said that the issue of the Arvand River should not be raised at the moment. This is because of the Islamic Republic's steadfast adherence to its position. In the beginning the situation was different. The Iraqis wanted the dredging to begin quickly so that they could benefit from the illegal and legal fringe benefits. When the Islamic Republic of Iran resisted, they retreated step by step until the latest proposal was made that UN personnel should carry out an inquiry into ways of dredging the river. We openly opposed this and said that the incorporation of elements not mentioned in the 1975 agreement will result in the distortion of this agreement. We declared that we are not willing to permit even a minor distortion of the agreement. Finally, the UN secretary general said that for the moment there should be no mention of the Arvand River.

However, the Islamic Republic's position is firm, recognized, and clear: The Arvand River is a maritime border between Iran and Iraq and 60 percent of its water comes from streams which have their source in the Zagros Mountains in Iran, the most important of which is the Karum River. A number of the tributaries of Iraq's Tigris River have their source in our mountains. Therefore 60 percent of the water in the Arvand River is Iran's. From a legal point of view, on the basis of the 1975 agreement, the border between Iran and Iraq in the river is the line of depth, or, in legal international terms, the thalweg. Both countries have the right to free navigation in this waterway. This is our position and we will not move an inch in this, as it is the recognized and confirmed right of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Afshar] Mr Mahallati, when it was announced that the talks would be moved from Geneva to New York, we saw that at first Iraq opposed this. I have a few questions on this. First of all, what effect would such a change of venue have on the talks that would make Iraq want to oppose it? Second, would it not be considered a defeat for Mr Jan Eliasson, and why did Iraq abandon its initial opposition on this point?

[Mahallati] I want to say that the change of venue of the talks to New York has three advantages, at least from the point of view of the Secretariat and the secretary general. First of all, the talks would be taking place on the premises of the UN Security Council, and the secretary general will be able to use the leverage of the Security Council to push the implementation ahead. This is a correct point. It has recently emerged that the Security Council's atmosphere is rather negative with regard to Iraq. Therefore, it could provide a valuable fulcrum for the progress of the resolution. This is a correct assessment on the part of the secretary general.

The second point is that the Secretariat is entirely at the disposal of the secretary general and its center is in New York. In Geneva, his possibilities were limited and the secretary general himself was aware of this.

The third point, and a most important one, is that we are on the eve of the UN General Assembly session. The session will begin in a few days' time, scores of heads of state and foreign ministers will participate, and the international atmosphere will be conducive to establishing peace worldwide and eliminating tension. These three levers will probably assist the secretary general to proceed faster with the implementation of the resolution.

On whether this change of venue is tantamount to a defeat for Mr Eliasson, Iraqi obstructionism on the Geneva talks cannot be interpreted as a defeat for Mr Eliasson, particularly as the Geneva talks were begun by the secretary general himself and Mr Eliasson, in his capacity as the secretary general's special representative, had consulted with him and kept him informed of all the details of the talks.

As to why Iraq changed its position, there could be two reasons. One is that Iraq is under intense international pressure and it would be wise for it to accede to the secretary general's request. The second possibility is that Iraq is trying to alter the erroneous policy which it has followed so far and to move toward the implementation of the resolution. We hope that the second reason is the correct one; however, in my opinion, moving the talks to New York will be to the benefit of the implementation of the resolution, but the extent cannot be gauged at present.

[Afshar] Mr Sarmadi, as our compatriots are well aware, Iraq attacked the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22 September by air, sea, and land. The Islamic Republic's officials presented numerous documents and evidence of this aggression to international organizations. Iraq has announced that the war did not begin on 22 September, claiming that it commenced 18 days before that date with the shelling of two Iraqi border towns by the Islamic Republic of Iran's artillery. Could you tell us whether or not these Iraqi allegations are backed by any reason or document?

[Sarmadi] The issue of Iraqi aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the date of the commencement of this aggression should not be a matter of doubt for anyone in the world. All are aware that the aggression started on 22 September and no one else will endorse Iraq's allegations. However, the fallacy of the Iraqi claims is clear from what they themselves say. They allege that 18 days before 22 September, the war began

with the shelling of two of their towns. All are aware that aggression can be definitely dated, according to international law, and border shelling—even if we suppose the Iraqi claims to be true—cannot be considered an act of aggression. The whole world witnessed the advance of Iraqi troops into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the occupation of our land and our border cities.

Second, aggression is accompanied by intentions, preliminaries which the aggressor has made for committing aggression against the soil of another country. As you see, the preparation of the Iraqi forces, their construction of highways and trenches all point to the fact that Iraq was preparing for an act of aggression. The other point is that the Iraqi officials and authorities had mentioned that Khuzestan should secede as it is really called Arabistan and that several smaller Irans would be better than one big one. They also drew maps and their intent and statements on the secession of parts of Iran prove their aggression.

The Iraqi claims, especially their recent propaganda, are related to Clause 6 of the resolution, which specifies that a committee be set up to determine responsibility for the war and the identification of the aggressor. They are trying to create better conditions for themselves and cause difficulties so that this committee is not able to carry out its work easily and so that they ensure that their claims are heard. As I have mentioned, there is no way that there can be any doubts on the date of the commencement of the aggression on 22 September.

The evidence and documents that the Iraqis mention, for example some notes which their Foreign Ministry may have issued on border shelling, cannot be considered as documentary proof of an act of aggression or an attack.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, some Iraqi officials, including Tariq 'Aziz and Sa'dun Hammadi, have stated that the 1975 agreement is null and void and they do not accept it as the basis of the Geneva talks. Could you please tell us, in the light of the substance of the 1975 agreemnt itself and the Vienna convention—and we know that the Iraqi utterances are illegal—what legal measures the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken?

[Velayati] Yes. As you mentioned, the Iraqis have said these things in various forms since the beginning of the war. That is, before the war, they said that the 1975 agreement is not valid and we declare it null and void, and then they attacked. Following the acceptance of the resolution, and in view of the fact that for the return of forces to the international borders it was necessary to demarcate the borders as the border posts had been destroyed in the war, there was a need for an endorsement of the border agreement of 1913 which was signed in Constantinople—Istanbul—between Iran and the Ottomans. The land border between Iran and Iraq was based in fact on the 1913 Istanbul accord and was concluded at the sessions for the demarcation of borders and frontiers of 1914. In 1975 this agreement was completed with the demarcation of the line of depth or the thalweg in the Arvand River as the maritime border.

In practice, this agreement cannot be revoked unilaterally. In 1969, an accord was signed in Vienna among governments of the world which stipulates that all border agreements are permanent. In view of the fact that the 1975 agreement was signed 6 years after this convention, one should say that it falls within the framework of this convention as a border agreement and cannot be unilaterally revoked. Therefore, from the legal point of view, no one will accept their claims. We have discussed this at the United Nations and, as regards the United Nations, this agreement is valid. Various countries of the world which are interested in this topic affirm that the 1975 agreement is valid and firm and we also stand by it.

Iraq knows that it cannot abrogate it unilaterally. Therefore, it is trying to put forth flimsy and false reasoning and evidence, saying for example, that the Iranians did not carry out the accord in its true spirit and thus they are the ones who have in a sense revoked it and it should be declared null and void. Under the aforementioned Vienna convention, even if the Iraqi allegations are true—that is, even if Iran did not act in accordance with the true spirit of the accord, although we have proved the Iraqi allegations to be complete lies in numerous ways—then there are no grounds for their unilateral abrogation of the 1975 agreement. From our point of view it was always valid, and the martyr Raja'i, when he went to the Security Council a month after the war began, announced officially that the agreement is still valid in our opinion. A short while after his speech in the UN Security Council in 1980, our Foreign Ministry sent a letter to the Security Council, which was documented and in which we announced that this accord is valid in our view.

Therefore, there is no room for bargaining on the accord; it cannot be distorted. It is completely valid and has been recognized by the people of the world and legal and international associations.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, cannot this unilateral abrogation of the 1975 agreement by Iraq be used by the committee for the identification of the aggressor?

[Velayati] Yes, as one of the bases, it can.

[Afshar] Mr Mahallati, if, in the future, Iraq continues in its mischief-making and intransigence, what practical means could the United Nations—as the peacemaker between the two countries—adopt for implementing peace?

[Mahallati] It would not be wrong to say that the imposed war proved that the United Nations is not able to enforce some of the provisions of its charter for the prevention of war or for its termination. In view of this, we thought of some plans for the region. Three years ago,

Dr Velayati gave a comprehensive proposal in this regard to the secretary general so that with the adoption of certain measures, we could maintain security in the region and wield stronger levers for preventing war and for the chastisement of the aggressor in the event any of the regional countries seeks to wage war.

In addition to this plan, which has become the focal point of Clause 8 of the resolution now, and which the secretary general is obliged to abide by in the future, the United Nations has other mechanisms within its power, such as its economic and military sactions. Our attention is focused primarily on the security of the region rather than the other mechanisms, which need not necessarily be pursued within the confines of the UN efforts. We can implement it within the context of the contacts that we have with the regional countries, and all the regional countries can do likewise. I wish to state that in recent months we have become aware that most of the regional countries are in favor of such a step. The time is right for it, so, God willing, it may be pursued.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, in view of the fact that every time Iraq feels stronger it launches military attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, there is a possibility that after the establishment of peace this may continue to be a major danger. Could you tell us what practical measures have been envisaged by the Islamic Republic of Iran to avert it?

[Velayati] Our revolution has a decade of experience behind it which indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not ready to slacken in its resolve to defend its land, its nation, and the ideals of the revolution and of Islam. It is determined on this point and the actions of our leaders and nation have affirmed that Islamic Iran will contiinue as a solid invincible bastion. Iraq is essentially too small even to think of nurturing any thoughts of aggression against Iran. It was as a representative of the big powers that it attacked, as it had been instructed to do. That is, those who gave Iraq money and arms at various junctures assured Iraq of support and continued backing, which is why Iraq did what it did.

Iran has certainly shown that it stands steadfast before foreign aggression and is determined to defend its territory. I think this experience of 8 years of war was a valuable one. This was mentioned at one of the Geneva sessions and I made it clear to the Iraqi foreign minister that we hope these 8 years of war will prove a valuable experience to you so that you do not repeat your former irresponsible behavior.

We do not have any aggressive designs on any country and we are firm in our determination to prevent aggression from any country, whether big or small, a power or a superpower. Therefore, the only path is the maintenance of cohesion, the solidarity of the nation under the aegis of the leaders, and a continued and active presence on the fronts until the peace talks reach a definite point. As the imam said in his message and our president, the acting commander in chief, and other high-level officials have repeatedly stressed, it is imperative that the people maintain an earnest and active presence at the fronts which will prove a major support for us at the talks. If we do not have this strong backing we will not be able to push the talks forward in the right manner.

[Afshar] Mr Mahallati, as Dr Velayati mentioned, in the course of the 8-year imposed war, the great powers of the world, including the United States, gave complete and multilateral support to Iraq. The U.S. stationing of troops in the Persian Gulf was for the same purpose. Recently, we have seen that the United States is condemning Iraq for using chemical weapons. My question is: How is it that the United States is not supporting Iraq on this? Does it want to extract something from Iraq, wrest some concessions, or is there another reason?

[Mahallati] I think that rather than being a question of wresting concessions from Iraq, it seems more like a purging of their own conduct as regards their support of Iraq, for the benefit of the people of their country. I remember some months ago, when the use of chemical weapons in Halabjah was topical, some domestic U.S. publications questioned the administration as to why the U.S. State Department insisted on sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran when the Iraqi regime had perpetrated such an unprecedented crime. This question remained uppermost in the minds of the American people and has surfaced and become even more important now, in the light of what Iraq has done to its own Kurds. This issue hangs as a major question mark over U.S. support for Iraq in the course of the imposed war. Therefore, it is natural and appropriate that the United States is trying to wipe its slate clean...

[Sarmadi, interrupting] If you observe, this wave of condemnation of Iraq on the use of chemical weapons first began in nongovernment circles. The dimensions of this Iraqi atrocity were so extensive that it may be said that governments are now forced to take a position on this crime. However, as regards the use of chemical weapons, some countries which are members of the Security Council have a previous record of denouncing Iraq for the use of chemical weapons, so it was not unprecedented.

However, in view of the compromising political attitude or the support for Iraq during the course of the war, there is now a need for practical measures. As far as the imposition of sanctions on Iraq is concerned, they do not seem willing to do this. It is because of extensive pressure from public opinion and the massive dimensions of the crime that countries are trying to adopt a position in this regard or to apply pressure on Iraq.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, if you allow me, I will ask Your Excellency one last question. Now that the Geneva talks have ended and it has been decided that a new round of talks is to be held in New York, there appears to be a strong possibility that the situation has changed to some

extent, as certain events have taken place in the meantime. Could you give us a sort of comparison between the situation prior to the talks and the situation now that the talks have ended? I feel it would be an interesting summation.

[Velayati] The first point I want to make is that the face of Iraq has been clearly revealed to the people of the world, political circles, international associations, and world public opinion. It has been exposed as the kind of regime it is. In the same way, the Islamic Republic's true nature has been brought to the fore, as Dr Mahallati said. The Iraqis change their color according to the conditions in their country, in the region, or in the world. One day they say one thing and the next day they say something else. This is an important point and it has been extensively covered in the world press, that is, the newspapers of Great Britain, the United States, France, and Asian and other European and Third World countries, which have carried articles on their erroneous assessment of past years.

Second, in view of the Iraqi preconditions, we have witnessed frequent reneging on its position by Iraq, as we saw in New York. They announced that first, the direct talks should take place and then a cease-fire. We resisted and the world exerted pressure, and finally Iraq retreated from this position. In the course of the 3 weeks that we were in Geneva, they repeatedly reneged on their declared positions. For example, in the first round of talks they announced a plan, which was debated. We gave our response opposing it, and the next day the Iraqi foreign minister officially announced the withdrawal of that plan.

As regards the Arvand River, they proposed the dredging. We did not agree until they assented to an inquiry by the United Nations, and as you mentioned, the secretary general said it should not be discussed at this juncture. Then the secretary general's statement the end of the session was read out by Mr Eliasson. This said that the agenda of the session is the completion of the first clause, the first part of which is the cease-fire, and the second part of which is the withdrawal. For the remainder of the clauses, a definite timetable is to be announced. We have never attained such an assessment with such clarity and earnestness on the part of the secretary general, who has the support of the 15 UN Security Council members. This is the most important achievement.

[Afshar] I thank all our brothers who have participated in this program. Dear viewers, with the hope that this program may have been of use to you, along with Messrs Velayati, Mahallati, and Sarmadi, the participants in the program, and all our colleagues in the political group of the second network of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish you goodbye and God bless you. Good night.

Perez de Cuellar Asks UN Council To Condemn Iraq

LD1509172188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, has asked the Security Council to condemn the regime in Iraq for hindering the Geneva peace talks.

According to the same report, the UN secretary general has informed the five permanent Security Council members that the responsibility for the lack of progress in the Geneva talks belongs to Iraq and that Baghdad must be criticized for it.

Commentary Denounces Iraqi 'Obstructionism'

NC1209114588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1733 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers resumed their talks in Geneva, in the presence of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative. These talks are taking place after a 2-week interval and at a time when Perez de Cuellar has proposed that the venue of talks be changed from Geneva to New York. As regards this change, UN sources express the hope that the presence of the foreign ministers who are to participate in the annual UN General Assembly session on 20 September may contribute to accelerating the full implementation of Resolution No 598.

Meanwhile, Jan Eliasson has reported to the UN secretary general on the 2-week lull in the talks, but the secretary general has not commented on the matter to date. Our foreign minister has described the change of venue for the talks from Geneva to New York as a positive step; the Iraqi regime, however, persists in its obduracy on the matter. Sa'dun Hammadi, the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, made it clear in an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, the UAE newspaper, that the Iraqi regime does not favor moving the talks from Geneva to New York.

Conditions relating to the return of forces to international borders are being debated but Iraq has so far not recognized the international borders. Iraqi officials, including Tariq 'Aziz and Sa'dun Hammadi, have stressed in separate interviews that the 1975 border agreement is an obsolete document which is no longer valid. This Iraqi move at the present juncture, is, in fact, being interpreted as obstructionism by the Iraqi regime in the implementation of Resolution No 598. All are aware, including the Iraqi regime, that these Iraqi claims are an overt violation of the 1961 Vienna convention. This convention stipulates that a border agreement cannot under any circumstances be unilaterally revoked. On the other hand, it was also clearly stated in the 1975 agreement that this accord cannot be annulled.

In addition to its illegal unilateral abrogation of the 1975 agreement, the Iraqi regime has raised the issue of the dredging of the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab waterway] as a precondition to the implementation of Resolution No 598. The raising of the issue of the dredging of the Arvand River as a precondition is being interpreted as Iraq's attempt to promote its own plan for the implementation of Resolution No 598, instead of the UN secretary general's plan. Resolution No 598 only authorizes the UN secretary general to present a plan for its implementation. Thus it is obvious that the Iraqi regime—by pushing forward its own plan for the implementation of the resolution—is in fact encroaching on the sphere of the UN secretary general's jurisdiction and is thus violating the substance of the resolution.

Concerning the Iraqi regime's preconditions, some political analysts take the view that the regime is trying to prolong the talks by propounding various preconditions prior to the implementation of each clause. They believe that the Iraqi regime—by prolonging the talks and by abusing the regulations which apply to war conditions—is trying to crush its opponents prior to the complete implementation of the resolution and to pave the way for its continued supremacy after the resolution's implementation.

One of the Iraqi moves for this purpose is the widespread attack on Iraqi Kurds. This attack has taken place on an unprecedented scale, and heavy weapons, especially chemical weapons, have been used. By creating war conditions within Iraq, this regime is endeavoring to justify its bestial massacre of the Kurds. In contrast, the Islamic Republic of Iran has displayed its genuine desire for the return of real peace in the region and wishes to see the complete and swift implemetation of the resolution's clauses within the terms of the UN secretary general's plan and the 1975 agreement. Iran has affirmed its sincerity by its logical stance.

However, Iran's desire for a complete implementation of the resolution is not, by itself, enough. The other side in the talks is the Iraqi regime, which should display the necessary concurrence. Even though it is the Iraqi regime that has created obstacles in the path of the resolution's implementation, it is up to the UN Security Council and Iraq's supporters in the region to adopt a categorical and principled stand to pressure Iraq into a tight corner so that it accepts a real peace.

Kurdish Leader Expects 'Major' Offensive

AU1509193088 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Paris, Sept 15 (AFP)—Iran is preparing to launch a major military offensive against Iranian Kurds, the secretary general of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) said here Thursday.

'Abd al-Rahman Qasimlu told a press conference that his group, which is fighting for autonomy, will combat the Iranian plans through "armed struggle and guerrilla" operations.

Iran, he said, was "mobilising an army" against the Kurds in the west of the country, where "the number of (Iranian) troops and Revolutionary Guards has gone up from 200,000 to 300,000."

The struggle for "Kurdish autonomy and democracy in Iran," will continue, said Mr. Qasimlu, adding that peace will be restored to western Iran once the Kurds obtain their "national demands."

He said his party was willing to hold negotiations with the Iranian authorities but "as long as Imam Khomeyni (Iran's spiritual leader) is alive, the philosophy of the Iranian regime will continue to be based on war."

The PDKI official said that 50,000 Iranian Kurds had been killed since 1979, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's Islamic Revolution was launched.

Mr. Qasimlu failed to comment on recent allegations that Iraq had used chemical weapons against its Kurdish minority. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Concern' Over Iraqi Use of Toxins Noted

LD1509193388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The disarmament conference chaired by Iran in Geneva, today, witnessed scenes of heated criticism by participants of the conference against the Iraqi regime for its use of chemical weapons against the Kurds in northern Iraq.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Australian foreign affairs minister, submitting a document to the conference session today, expressed anxiety over the use of chemical weapons against the Kurds. In his speech, he pointed out that the use of the horrendous chemical weapons against civilians under any circumstances has been condemned by the state of Australia. Further, the Australian foreign minister asked the disarmament conference to forcefully pursue its efforts to reach a global agreement for prohibiting the use of chemical weapons in all quarters.

The U.S. representative to the conference stated that the U.S. Administration is very concerned over published reports on the use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish people of Iraq.

UN Group Commander on Iraqi Army Attack

LD1509225888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The commander of the UNIIMOG [UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group], in a letter to the liaison officer of Iran, detailed the steps taken following the illegal attack by the Iraqi Army against positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces under ceasefire conditions and the capture of 752 of our country's military personnel.

According to IRNA, the letter states: Despite steps taken by UNIIMOG which endangered the life of a person connected with the forces, UNIIMOG was unable to halt the Iraqi attack. In the letter, Slavko Jovic, the commander of UNIIMOG, pointed out: In the course of the attack launched in violation of regulations on 23 Auguest 1988, UNIIMOG personnel in the Ahvaz region made every possible effort to find an agreeable solution, but were unable to halt the moves by the Iraqi forces.

The letter continued: UNIIMOG officers requested the return of Iranian servicemen, but their request went unanswered. In the letter, Slavko Jovic justified the concern by Iranian officials about the captured servicemen and praised their self-restraint. The UN officer indicated that he would employ all UNIIMOG resources to ensure the release and return of the Iranian forces and expressed optimism concerning their release. He also pointed out that the proceedings had been reported to the UN secretary general.

Former U.S. Hostage Urges Return of Assets

LD1509191888 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] London, Sept. 15, IRNA—The Reagan administration should not dismiss releasing Iran's assets to open the door toward constructive ties and the opportunity for assistance in gaining the release of Americans held in Lebanon, a former U.S. kidnapped victim in Lebanon has said.

David Dodge argued Wednesday in an article written for THE WASHINGTON POST that the properties held by the U.S. belong to Iran and any release of them back to their rightful owner would not involve any major reversal of Washington's policy.

The former U.S. hostage was kidnapped in July 1982 while serving as acting president of the American University of Beirut and was later released in 1983.

He said that there is money amounting to billions of dollars still awaiting settlement before a special tribunal in The Hague and argued that Reagan should arrange for its arbitration.

Dodge also raised the matter of military hardware paid for by Iran but never delivered by the U.S. because of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. But with a ceasefire and possible end to Iraq's war against Iran, he urged that the Reagan Administration "must reconsider its Iran policy" and argued that this could be done without compromising U.S. relations with Arab states in the Persian Gulf.

"Iran will remain a force in the Middle East," Dodge warned and "shares a vast interest in International trade."

Envoy on Release of Egyptian 'Mercenaries'

LD1509192488 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Rome, Sept. 15, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Rome Hamid Abu Talebi said here Wednesday that the Islamic Republic released the 16 Egyptian mercenaries solely for humanitarian considerations, and as a sign of respect to Egyptian Muslims.

In an interview with IRNA Abu Talebi said the release of the Egytians has no connection with the Geneva peace talks between Iran and Iraq, adding that the mercenaries were set free after talks between Iranian and Italian officials which started last month. Italy takes care of Egypt's interest in Iran following the rupture of ties in 1979.

Iran agreed to their release due to its friendly relations with Rome taking into consideration Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti's positive efforts during the Iraqi-imposed war, he said.

Abu Talebi said according to the Geneva Convention the captured Egyptians are not considered as prisoners of war, but as mercenaries. He stressed that the 16 Egyptians were released regardless of political considerations, and only for Islamic and humanitarian reasons.

The ambassador however did not rule out the probability of the release of several other Egyptian mercenaries in Iran through Italy, but said the issue depends on Cairo's reaction to this humanitarian act by the Islamic Republic.

On Tehran-Cairo diplomatic relations, he said Iran severed its ties with the Egyptian regime because of Anwar al-Sadat's treacherous acceptance of the Camp David accords and his recognition of the Zionist regime occupying Qods. "Obstacles still exist, but the ties between the Muslim peoples of Iran and Egypt are historical," Abutalebi said.

The Italian Foreign Ministry released a statement here Wednesday night, expressing gratitude over the release of 16 Egyptian mercenaries by Iran.

Asked whether the release of Egyptians would affect Cairo-Baghdad ties, Abu Talebi only answered that the Egyptian regime's cooperation with Ba'thist Iraq during the war should not be overlooked.

The Iranian ambassador warned that Cairo's continuation of hostile measures against Islamic Iran may affect the fate of other Egyptian mercenaries still in Iranian custody. "The Cairo Government should not forget that it is answerable to the mercenaries' families and the Muslim people of Egypt at large," he said.

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives 15 Sep
LD1509150188 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—A Soviet economic delegation led by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Veniamin Korolev arrived here today to make preparations for the 11th Tehran-Moscow Joint Economic Commission.

Upon his arrival Korolev told IRNA that he is visiting Iran to follow up talks held earlier for establishment of the commission, and will also exchange views with Iranian officials on what he termed as "new topics."

The delegation is also to visit the ongoing 14th Tehran International Trade Fair (Sept. 12-23) during its stay here, Korolev said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Finance and Economic Affairs Minister 'Ali Majedi, who welcomed the Soviet delegation at the airport, said that the two sides would discuss mutual economic cooperation.

The first round of talks between the Soviet delegation and Iranian officials is to be held here this evening.

Tehran Cites TASS on Hammadi-Shevardnadze Talks
LD1609101988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] According to a report by the official USSR news agency, TASS, Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state in foreign affairs, rejected once again in Moscow on Wednesday reports about Baghdad's deploying chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds.

This happened at a time when TASS described the talks between Hammadi and Shevardnadze as constructive and held in a businesslike atmosphere. The official news agency of the USSR normally uses the above terms to allude to differences of viewpoints.

The USSR foreign minister at his meeting with Hammadi urged the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 and efforts for progress in the peace talks. In the current week Moscow announced its agreement for establishing an international commission to study the reports on Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

'Postponement' of Soviet Pullout Viewed
NC0909202088 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpts] Rumors have circulated recently about the possible postponement of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. This has once again placed new problems in front of that country's old crisis. During the past week, the Kabul regime's diplomats in various countries repeatedly warned that the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan may stop because of what they called increasing Pakistani intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union believed that after the crash of Ziaul Haq's plane, the vacuum created in the Pakistani leadership would give Najibullah's regime a good opportunity to attract the attention of the mujahidin groups and of influential countries toward the formation of the desired coalition rule. However, the unaltered Pakistani policy of supporting the mujahidin has not solved any of the Soviet Union's problems.

The culmination of Afghanistan's domestic problems and the Kabul regime's inability to solve them reached such a point that the Afghan foreign minister was forced to make an unprecedented statement in which he admitted that the Afghan Government has failed to implement socialism in Afghanistan. He went on to ask: How can a socialist system be established in a country where private ownership is above 80 percent and public ownership less than 1 percent?

This statement came at a time wrhen the Soviet Union was using the Iran-Iraq war and the extent of its influence on this war as a trump card to advance its objectives and views in Afghanistan. However, with the end of the imposed war drawing closer, the Soviet Union sees itself as having failed to achieve any success in Afghanistan and the Kabul regime as gradually losing all its past positions in various spheres. Moreover, it sees itself as having lost the trump card of the Iran-Iraq war.

Therefore, the Soviet Union now hopes that, by propounding unprincipled preconditions at the Geneva talks on the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam Husayn will create the time necessary for the Soviet Union to end the Afghan crisis.

Meanwhile, according to some news circles, simultaneous with these activities, another ploy being used by the Kabul regime to inflict pressure on those countries which have influence on the Afghan crisis is the activation of Afghanistan's [word indistinct] organization in Pakistan and in some neighboring countries.

In view of all this, and bearing in mind other regional problems, the Afghan crisis has now reached the stage at which the Soviet Union either will have to send its forces

into Afghanistan once again to preserve its positions—and such a repetition will mean a continuation of the damage that has been inflicted on the Soviet Union's political-military structure over the past 8 years—or it will have to accept a rule in Afghanistan, precisely what the mujahidin want.

Reportage on Meeting of IRGC Commanders

Khamene'i on Post-War Role

LD1509190688 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—A meeting of commanders and officials of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) from throughout the country opened at Azadi Stadium here Thursday with a speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his inaugural speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i who also chairs the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) lauded the IRGC personnel for their committment to Islam and the key role they played in the nearly 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war.

The SDC head said that such a revolutionary organ (IRGC) was in fact born and grew up on the battlefields and its personnel are very popular with the people.

Present at the meeting were Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i, Imam Khomeyni's SDC representative Brigadier General 'Ali Seyyed Shirazi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Araqi in charge of the imam's bureau in IRGC, Gendarmerie Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Sohrabi, former IRGC minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and a number of other military officials.

The president said that had the Islamic Republic lacked such a strong military power it would have had nothing to say in the Geneva peace talks.

Khamene'i called on the Iranian Armed Forces including IRGC personnel to maintain their combat prowess and remain on full alert because he cautioned the enemy is likely to resort to military action again in a vain bid to strengthen its position in the Geneva peace talks.

The enemy vainly thinks that it enjoys a position of strength and this explain its attempts to blackmail Iran in the U.N.-mediated peace talks at Geneva, Khamene'i said.

But, the president made it clear that the Islamic Republic, which he said has soundly thrashed Saddam's masters, will never give in to blackmail to anybody in the world.

Elsewhere in his speech, President Khamene'i called on the IRGC personnel to fully observe discipline and hierarchy of command and to stay clear of petty politics. However, Khamene'i noted, this does not mean that IRGC forces should not be able to recognize or analyze political affairs. But rather, he said, they should not side with any person or group, for example, in presidential or parliamentary elections.

Also addressing the audience was IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i who elaborated on the goals of the meeting.

Musavi on Remaining 'Alert'

LD1509191088 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15 IRNA—Further strengthening of the Armed Forces tops the government's programmes, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi told a nationwide seminar of commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) which opened here today.

Stressing that IRGC should continue to serve as a torch-bearer and guardian of Islamic values, the premier said "IRGC is an indivisible part of the Islamic Revolution."

He said the country's defensive power should be strengthened because if Iran cannot keep its alertness there is no reason why the enemy should not attack the Islamic Republic again on behalf of global arrogance.

We should stay firm on our principles and be alert in economic, political, cultural and military scenees, while safeguarding our national security, Musavi said.

Thousands of IRGC commanders participated in the seminar which was opened in Azadi Stadium here today by President 'Ali Khamene'i's speech.

Further on Leaders' Speeches

NC1609090188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary of the imam of the ummah's issuance of the charter on IRGC mobilization to the tripartite forces, on the eve of sacred defense week, and in order to praise the IRGC commanders, the grand assembly of the IRGC commanders opened in the 4,000-seat Azadi auditorium with speeches by Mr Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council; Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief; and Mr Musavi, prime minister.

In his speech Mr Khamene'i president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, spoke about the special characteristics of an Islamic and revolutionary army and about the impact of a strong, combatant, and faithful force on regional and international relations. He then referred to the impact of the war on the formation of the IRGC'S large installations and said: War granted the IRGC this framework, order, and power. However, had this been an ordinary period, the IRGC would never

have achieved this growth; the ebullient talents of thousands of people in command, combat, and planning would not have emerged; and many of these talents and revolutionary values would not have been identified.

The president then pointed to the fact that the IRGC will remain a military unit and said: The IRGC will definitely retain its form. However, the division of duties between the Armed Forces and the IRGC will be handled by the war officials.

Mr Khamene'i also referred to the need to keep the IRGC an armed unit, away from involvement in the country's political activities, such as the elections. He pointed to the Islamic Republic's position on peace and on the implementation of Resolution No 598, adding: We will never give in to blackmail and we do not accept bullying from anyone.

In conclusion, the president praised and thanked Mr Rafiqdust for his services.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also spoke at the assembly. Referring to the IRGC's role during the 10 years of Islamic Revolution and the strengthening of the country's defense structure during the coming reconstruction era, he said: We are ready to confront our enemies with great strength if they intend to begin war on the fronts and, in parallel, to continue our efforts toward a lasting peace.

In another part of his speech Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Iraqi regime is now under pressure from its own people who are asking what the outcome of the war has been. The Iraqi regime intends to respond to this pressure from its people and world opinion with political and propaganda maneuvering.

The acting commander in chief added: Because of the IRGC's role in strengthening the revolution right from the beginning until now, the system should continue to appreciate the role of the IRGC. If our Islamic Revolution does not wish to part with its ideals, it should strive to preserve the most important backbone of the revolution, the IRGC.

The acting commander in chief and the Majlis speaker then described as lies those rumors of the dissolution of the IRGC and the Armed Forces and said: The IRGC should preserve its original identity and should continue its favorable qualitative and quantitative growth as the backbone of the worldwide Islamic Revolution. The acting commander in chief concluded his speech to the IRGC commanders and officials by stressing that cultural issues should be taken seriously and attention should be paid to the welfare IRGC personnel. He said: Until now you have not had the opportunity for special disciplinary and military order training. However, from now on you should pay attention to this and to organizational orders. Naturally, your faith and military ardor will lead to the IRGC's further elevation and strengthening.

Prime Minister Musavi also spoke to the assembly. Praising the epic of the Iranian nation's 8 years of sacred defense in confronting the enemy and the IRGC's great role in the sacred defense, he said: After the war the Islamic Republic's system should continue to preserve the revolution's values and should use the IRGC as a lofty ideal of the revolution. The prime minister also pointed out: The country's defense structure should be strenthened in order to preserve independence and territorial integrity, and the full capabilities of the IRGC and the Armed Forces should be employed in this. The prime minister added: The General Command Staff agrees with this and is fully prepared to implement the country's defense programs.

Besharati Receives Message From FRG's Genscher

LD1509215588 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Special West German Envoy Reinhard Schlaginlweit conferred with acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here today.

In the meeting Schlaginlweit submitted a message from West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Besharati, and called for expansion of mutual ties.

Besharati in reply expressed hope that suitable grounds would be prepared for further expansion of Tehran-Bonn relations.

FRG Envoy Delivers Messages for Musavi

LD1509161588 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—West German's special envoy Reinhard Schlaginlweit today thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to procure the release of a German hostage in Lebanon.

Schlaginlweit in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri submitted messages from chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher for Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. He also called for expansion of Tehran-Bonn cooperation in international organizations.

Mo'ayeri in reply stressed Iran's opposition to any hostage taking and expressed hope that the four Iranians kidnapped by the Phalangist militia in Lebanon would also be released and returned to their families.

Referring to the Geneva talks, Mo'ayeri said the contents of U.N. Resolution 598 can only be materialised by the U.N. chief's efforts and support of the Security Council. Iraqi procrastinations are clearly obstructing peace in the region, he added.

Mo'ayeri also condemned the Baghdad regime's barbaric chemical attacks against Kurdish people in northern Iraq and said world public opinion should exert necessary pressure on Baghdad to prepare the ground for the safe return of the persecuted Kurds to their homeland.

He expressed hope that Tehran-Bonn relations would further expand in various areas.

Majlis Debates Cabinet Appointments

LD1109121888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] In its open session this morning, the Majlis began a debate on the vote of confidence for the cabinet. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi began by delivering a speech and noting the present situation in the country. He pointed out the belief [words indistinct] and presence by the public and also the lofty and wise guidance of the imam of the ummah calling the above the sole sources of power.

Continuing with his speech, the prime minister urged adherence to the fundamental principles of the revolution and said: It is a pity that in an atmosphere filled with the scent of the blood of the lofty revolutionary martyrs, the 10 years of martydom-seeking and selfless efforts by our chosen nation are being explicitly criticized as 10 years of a hostile approach to issues. Further, it is being suggested that the time has now come for a return to wisdom-seeking by the revolution.

Noting the guidance by the imam of the ummah as the second secret of powerful presence he said: The comments by the imam of the ummah have never meant that we should forget our duties in keeping the interests of the country aloft or that we should call as religiously incorrect any presence in the political arena. The prime minister pointed out: If we do not wish to break our backs under the burden of hardship and if we wish to stand proud in the presence of the united infidel-stricken order of the world then we must strengthen our order.

Musavi went on to note that the Majlis has the fundamental role of the order and added: The ummah views you Majlis deputies as the core of national virtues. The government too, relying on your votes of confidence, will accept the duty of conducting the executive affairs of the country.

Concluding his speech, the prime minister pointed out that the right to decide about ministers belongs to the Majlis deputies. The cabinet that is to receive your votes of confidence will be reintroduced to the Majlis in the coming year and consequently, those ministers not receiving your votes of confidence may not be replaced. Even if a replacment is found, the ministers new to their posts will not be able to conduct approporiate ventures. The mere task of choosing colleagues, being the obvious right of all ministers, will take a considerable time in this crucial period of reconstruction.

Following the prime minister's speech, a number of deputies supported or objected to the ministers. The supporting deputies defended the performance of the cabinet and the government pointing out their wish to reappoint the cabinet while praising their efforts under war conditions in the country. The objecting deputies criticized a number of ministers for various reasons, particularly with respect to mismanagement and to ministry shortcomings, insisting on the need for fundamental changes in the ministries. They requested that the prime minister should pay more attention to the above points.

The session went into a recess following the speeches by the prime minister and the deputies. The debate will continue in the open Majlis session this afternoon.

Pakistan

Government 'Determined' To Hold 'Fair' Elections

BK1509153588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The Senate was again assured that the present caretaker government is determined to hold free, fair, and impartial elections in the country on the 16th of November. Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Ahir while speaking on two identical privilege motions of Mr Tariq Chaudhury and Professor Khurshid Ahmad categorically stated that no one will be allowed to use government machinery improperly. The motions were ruled out of order.

Defense Secretary To Visit Delhi To Discuss Siachen

BK1509152288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan welcomes the further continuation of the current dialogue about the problems between the two countries. He said the defense secretary will go to New Delhi on the 22d of this month to hold another round of talks with his Indian counterpart on the Siachen issue.

Envoy to USSR, Shevardnadze Discuss Afghanistan

BK1609023288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union have held talks on the implementation of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan. These talks were held between Pakistan's ambassador in Moscow, Abdus Sattar, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday.

'Understanding' With USSR on POW's Denied

BK1509121288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 15 (AFP)—Pakistan Thursday denied as premature a report here that an understanding had been reached between Moscow and the Afghan

resistance on the release of Soviet soldiers taken prisoner by the rebels. A Foreign Office spokesman told reporters here that no such understanding had been reached as there was "no Soviet prisoner on Pakistani soil."

THE FRONTIER POST, published in Peshawar near the Afghan border, reported Thursday that the Soviet Union and the mujahidin rebels had had indirect talks with Pakistan as intermediary and that an understanding had been reached. The mujahidin conveyed terms and conditions for the release of the Soviet POWs, it said, but did not elaborate. The paper said the only remaining step was to determine how to implement the understanding between Islamabad and Moscow.

The Pakistani spokesman, while describing the report as "premature," confirmed that Pakistan was "assisting in efforts to secure release of Soviet soldiers" reportedly being held by the mujahidin. "We consider this a humanitarian issue," he added. Moscow has listed 311 soldiers as missing in action during its eight-year war with anti-communist guerrillas in Afghanistan. It believes that some 250 were alive and in the rebels' custody.

In August the Jamiat-e Eslami resistance faction offered to release two soldiers from Soviet Central Asia, but they refused to return to their country. At a press conference in a rebel-held area of Afghanistan, they said they had joined their Moslem brothers and wanted to fight communism in Afghanistan.

The spokesman reiterated that the Afghan issue could be resolved by placing a broad-based government in Kabul. "Pakistan would support and encourage any move which paves the way for the setting up of a broad-based government in Afghanistan through an intra-Afghan dialogue," he added.

He said Pakistan would move a resolution on the Afghanistan issue at the U.N. General Assembly session beginning September 20 as "this remains a substantive issue for Pakistan and matter of deep concern for the world community." The main thrust of the resolution would be to press for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem so that three million refugees can return to their homeland and "the Afghan people are given the right to choose a government of their choice without foreign pressure or interference."

The Pakistani delegation, to be led by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, is to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York, he said. Mr. Yaqub Khan will also meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. During the meeting, which would be his second since July, Mr. Yaqub Khan will discuss bilateral matters and the Afghanistan situation, the spokesman said.

In answer to a question, he denied an allegation by the Kabul regime that the Pakistani Army had been involved in fighting inside Afghanistan, such as the taking of southeastern Spin Buldak town by the mujahidin Friday. The spokesman, however, warned that Pakistani troops had the right to return fire to defend the border in case of shelling by Afghan artillery.

He observed that the jihad (holy war) was going well, noting that the entire route from Spin Buldak to Herat was now under their control, and said the rebels' successes demonstrated unity in their ranks. He said mujahidin pressure was mounting on Qandahar but it would be premature to predict the capture of that important city.

Commentator Notes Steps To Boost Ties With USSR
BK1509141688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Sultan Ahmad commentary]

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union are keen to boost their relations. To give it an impetus, the Pakistani minister for finance, commerce, and planning, Dr Mahbubul Haq, at the Soviet invitation, is paying an official visit to Moscow shortly. He will discuss matters relating to expansion of the Soviet-Pakistan cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. During the visit, Dr Mahbubul Haq will discuss in detail the modalities of the proposed Soviet participation in 12 commercial and industrial projects, both in private and public sectors. Views will also be exchanged on the expansion of the [Karachi] steel mill.

The history of the relations between Pakistan and its northern neighbor—the Soviet Union—dates back to over 40 years. Only about 3 months back, the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union was celebrated in both the countries. Even after that, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, visited Moscow for a week-long consultation with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze. The invitation for this visit was extended by the Soviet foreign minister.

On his return, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the newsmen that the visit had paved the way for strengthening relations between the two countries. It was one of those which is useful among friendly countries for mutual consultations on matters of common interests. This shows that Pakistan values its friendship with the Soviet Union based on principles of coexistence, sovereignty, and independence along with territorial security.

During the celebrations of the 40th anniversary, it was decided in Moscow between the representatives of the two countries that a joint ministerial commission will soon be set up. At that time, the Soviet Union had shown keen interest in various development projects in Pakistan. These relations will be strengthened on the basis of mutuality and Soviet help for economic development of

Pakistan. Even before the establishment of these enhanced relations, the Soviet Union has been helping Pakistan in various projects.

Foremost among them being the steel mill project which has already been completed and has helped the country in not only the production of steel but also in other downstream supplementary industrial projects. A barter agreement exists between the two countries since 1983. Under this agreement, goods worth 1.17 billion rupees are exchanged every year between the two countries. In addition to this, Pakistan has also been exporting goods worth 381 million rupees to the Soviet Union for payment against the soft-term loan taken from that country.

The very fact that Pakistan has been maintaining such good economic relations with the Soviet Union despite the divergent [political] systems between the two countries shows that Pakistan wants peaceful, good, and friendly relations with its neighbor. These relations are based on promotion of mutual interests and boosting trade and economic relations. With the passage of time, these relations are increasing day by day. It was mainly due to the Soviet help that Pakistan entered the steel age. Pakistan is also grateful to the Soviet Union for the aid given to it in the shape of the Guddu thermal power station. Similarly, the tractor building factory near Lahore with an average of 5,000 tractors built every year has helped the agricultural industry in the country.

Sri Lanka

Unilateral Cease-Fire by Indian Forces Hailed

BK1509125388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The PKF's [Peacekeeping Force] unilateral declaration of cease-fire in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, which began this morning, has been widely welcomed.

The Sri Lankan minister for rural industries, Mr Thondaman, hailed the step, describing it as a new breakthrough in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Several Tamil groups in Sri Lanka, including the TULF, EPRLF AND TELO, have urged all Tamils including those belonging to the LTTE to take advantage of this opportunity in the spirit it was offered by the Government of India.

The Communist Party of India, in a statement in New Delhi, said the unilateral cease-fire announced by the PKF along with the new package of measures by the Jayewardene government will help create new possibilities for restoration of normalcy in the strife-torn northern Sri Lanka.

Cease-Fire 'Holding'

BK1609120788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1134 GMT 16 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—The cease-fire, declared by the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF], with effect from yesterday morning in northern and eastern Sri Lanka is holding and there have been no violations.

Indian High Commission sources told LANKAPUVATH that IPKF reports received this evening show that there were no incidents since the cease-fire came into effect at 0700 hours [0130 GMT] on 15 September. The cease-fire is effective up to 0700 hours on 20 September.

The general officer commanding of the IPKF has called upon all militants to come forward and hand over their weapons.

Regulations Issued Against Proposed Strike

BK1509161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government today promulgated a series of tough regulations under the emergency laws to deal with the proposed hartal [strike] called by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] for 2 days from tomorrow. A special government announcement in Colombo ordered all shops, transport services, and hospitals to function without interruption. It warned those who fail to comply that they will face severe punishment.

The statement threatened to break open shops and distribute goods to the people and cancel route buses of private bus operators, if normal services are not maintained. The announcement said gangs of fascists were engaged in creating a situation which could promote mass violence. It said the regulations were intended to ensure the safety and security of the people, ready supply of food and medicines and transport services. The education ministry has ordered all schools to remain closed tomorrow.

'Tough Measures' Announced

BK1609052088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0504 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Colombo, Sept 16 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces went on maximum alert Friday as the government announced tough measures, including the take over of private business, to break a planned strike by anti-government militants.

The militant Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) has called for a nationwide one-day strike on Saturday to mark President Junius

Jayewardene's 82nd birthday, officials here said. The government adopted the measures Thursday following the paralization of essential services on Monday during a JVP-forced one-day strike.

A military spokesman said armed soldiers and police were placed at entry points to the capital and that patrolling was stepped up elsewhere as security forces went on red alert to prevent an outbreak of violence.

A government statement Thursday said that "gangs of fascists" were planning mass violence that would result in hardship and misery to the people.

In another development, an alleged top JVP leader was released Thursday in what the government called a "step to restoring peace in the country."

Shantha Bandara told local reporters after he was freed that his release would bring peace only if it was done in good faith, but otherwise "there would be further trouble."

Monday's strike was called to protest the death in police custody of a human rights lawyer and the alleged disappearance of suspects arrested by security forces. The government statement said an essential services order invoked under sweeping emergency regulations had taken effect from Thursday nationwide to ensure that public services be maintained without interruption. "Any hotel, bakery, grocery store, pharmacy or any other establishment which fails to comply with these regulations will either be closed indefinitely or will be opened and goods distributed to people who demand them," the statement said.

In posters and leaflets, the JVP has urged shops to close but requested hotels to stay open and serve only rice, pumpkin curry and dryfish curry, a traditional meal served after a funeral, to mark Mr. Jayewardene's birthday.

Mr. Jayewardene is due to open a 15.6-million-dollar Chinese-donated Supreme Court complex on Saturday, but lawyers said they were boycotting the ceremony to protest the death of their colleague nine days after his arrest by police.

Schools throughout the country remained closed Friday following a government order. Officials said the move was to prevent JVP activists from instigating students to stage anti-government demonstrations.

Police opened fire on students in the central town of Badulla during a protest Tuesday, killing one student and seriously wounding six, officials said. They said there was tension in the area after the incident and that a night curfew has been clamped there.

The JVP is violently opposed to the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, and under which New Delhi has deployed some 49,000 troops in the island's north and east.

Since the accord, the group has been accused of killing nearly 500 ruling party supporters, security personnel and leftists backing the peace pact. In 1971, the group led an insurrection which was put down by the government with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Government Releases Tamil Detenues Under Amnesty

BK1509113088 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The government released its detenues on Tuesday [13 September] from different camps and some more were expected to be released in batches in the next few days, under a general amnesty envisaged, under the Indo-Sri Lanka accord. The released detenues belong to different Tamil groups, which have accepted the accord.

The TULF secretary general [A. Amirthalingam] was quoted by PTI as saying that the release of the detenues was a necessary step toward normalization of the situation needed before holding of provincial council elections in the North-East Province. He said his party would take a decision after consultation with other Tamil groups, once the notification for elections was issued by the Election Commission.

Communist Party Central Committee Member Killed

BK1409143788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1342 GMT 14 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—A Central Committee member of the Sri Lanka Communist Party was stabbed to death at Habaraduwa in the Southern Province by two assassins described by police as being members of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. Police told LANKAPUVATH that George Ratnayake, father of three, was commuting in a Sri Lanka Transport Board bus from the southern coastal town of Habaraduwa to attend a council meeting in the provincial capital of Galle when he was attacked by two terrorists riding in the same bus.

Police said the conductor of the crowded bus, on seeing two passengers behaving in a suspicious manner, had the bus stopped at a village. The conductor had got down from the bus and gone to a cluster of houses nearby possibly to raise an alarm. Meanwhile the provincial councillor had also alighted. He was followed by the 2 terrorists who [word indistinct] Kris knives and stabbed him in the back, killing him. Mr. Ratnayake's slayers robbed the .38 revolver which he was carrying in his bag

and used this weapon to hijack first a pedalcycle and then a little further on a motorcycle which they had abandoned four miles away and made their escape.

Latest reports state that the police were interviewing a suspect in connection with the provincial councillor's murder. Meanwhile police said that Mrs. Prabha Herat, a candidate at the last provincial council elections in the Central Province and a teacher at high school, Kandy, was shot at and seriously wounded in the arm and head by a terrorist firing a shot gun when she was walking along the road with her child to the bus (?stop) at Pilimatalawa in Kaduganawa at 0630 hours (local time) this morning. Police said the child was unhurt but Mrs. Herat was rushed to the government hospital, Kandy, for emergency (?surgery).